

## A Cheyenne Odyssey Prologue & Part 1

**Guiding Question:** What was daily life like for the Plains Indians in the middle of the 1800s?

### Document Analysis

#### Northern Cheyenne Life

#### Source 1: See-Think-Wonder

**Directions:** Look closely at the image and then follow the See-Think-Wonder prompts below.



**SEE:** Look closely at the image. Write down the people and objects you see. List as many details as possible.

**THINK:** Why and how do you think the Cheyenne may have made each object in the image? What needs might each object have met?

**WONDER:** What do you *not* understand about what you see in the image? What questions do you have about it?

## **A Cheyenne Odyssey** Prologue & Part 1

### Source 1: Description and Analysis

**Directions:** Read the description of the image you observed, and then answer the questions that follow.

#### **Tipis**

Tribes who lived on the Great Plains like the Northern Cheyenne used tipis for shelter. Tipis were made of buffalo hides attached to wooden poles, and could be quickly assembled, dismantled, and transported. Usually, the members of one family slept in a single tipi. Tipis and outdoor cooking were the domain of women. Most of the family's work was accomplished outside the tipi, so the Cheyenne could take advantage of natural light and avoid the danger of large fires inside the tipis. Men hunted buffalo, providing hides. Women made the tipis, and were responsible for setting up, taking down, and transporting tipis and their contents.

#### Questions to Answer

1. Why was it so important that tipis were easy to build and transport? How are they an example of the Northern Cheyenne's adaptation to life on the Great Plains?

2. What do tipis tell you about the importance of the buffalo in Northern Cheyenne society?

3. How did women's labor support the nomadic way of life on the Great Plains?

## A Cheyenne Odyssey Prologue & Part 1

### Source 2: See-Think-Wonder

**Directions:** Look closely at the image and then follow the See-Think-Wonder prompts below.



**SEE:** Look closely at the image. Write down the people and objects you see. List as many details as possible.

**THINK:** Why and how do you think the Cheyenne may have made each object in the image? What needs might each object have met?

**WONDER:** What do you *not* understand about what you see in the image? What questions do you have about it?

## **A Cheyenne Odyssey** Prologue & Part 1

### Source 2: Description and Analysis

**Directions:** Read the description of the image you observed, and then answer the questions that follow.

#### **Travois**

Travois (pronounced “truh-VOY”) were wooden frames used to drag heavy items over land. The travois poles were the same poles used to assemble tipis. Originally, travois were pulled by women or by pack dogs. By the nineteenth century, travois were pulled by horses, which allowed for longer poles and therefore, larger tipis. While the main component of a travois was wood, buffalo hides were used to line the basket and to attach the pieces of wood to each other.

#### **Photo Credits**

**Top:** “Mrs. Black Horse, Tse-Tsehese-stahase, with dog. No. 26,” in the Walter S. Cambell Collection, Western History collections, University of Oklahoma Library. **Bottom:** Library of Congress, Atsina Indian on horse pulling travois; photographed by Edward S. Curtis, 1908.

#### Questions to Answer

1. What were travois used for? Why were they more important to the Northern Cheyenne once they migrated to the Great Plains than they were previously?

2. What were the differences between a dog travois and a horse travois?

3. Both of these images show women handling the travois. Why do you think that might be the case?

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Source 3: See-Think-Wonder

**Directions:** Look closely at the image and then follow the See-Think-Wonder prompts below.



**SEE:** Look closely at the image. Write down as many details as possible.

**THINK:** Why and how do you think the Cheyenne may have made the object in the image? What need might the object have met?

**WONDER:** What do you *not* understand about what you see in the image? What questions do you have about it?

## **A Cheyenne Odyssey** Prologue & Part 1

### Source 3: Description and Analysis

**Directions:** Read the description of the image you observed, and then answer the questions that follow.

#### **Bladder Bag**

In the nineteenth century, the Northern Cheyenne and other tribes on the Great Plains used bags made from the bladders of buffalo to transport various materials, including water. After a buffalo was killed, its bladder was inflated with air and then dried. The bags were then rubbed between the hands to soften them. They held about two liters of liquid.

Source: <http://www.kshs.org/p/american-indians-and-the-buffalo/16095>

#### Questions to Answer

1. Which members of Northern Cheyenne society do you think made bladder bags? Why do you think so?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Who do you think used bladder bags and in what ways?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. In what ways was the practice of using bladder bags an adaptation by the Northern Cheyenne to life on the arid Great Plains?

## **A Cheyenne Odyssey** Prologue & Part 1

### Discussion Questions

1. What were some of the main characteristics of Northern Cheyenne life on the Great Plains in the nineteenth century?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What tools, technologies, and strategies did the Northern Cheyenne develop to live a nomadic lifestyle on the Great Plains?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What specific activities did men and women do in this nomadic, hunting-based way of life?