Title
Values in Lakota Society–The Role of Kinship.

Grade Level
Adult civic group.

Theme
Lakota life was structured around seven behavioral values. These values provided clear, orderly guidelines for behavior and all social interactions.

Duration
30 minutes-40 minutes.

Goal
To provide the student with an insight and awareness to values and ideals which shaped beliefs and behavior in Lakota society and to specifically examine the role of kinship.

Objectives
• Attitude
  a) Students will gain an appreciation of the core values of Lakota society.
  b) Students will discover the lead role that kinship plays in the core values.
  c) Students will develop an awareness and respect for the role of values in maintaining social stability and peace within and among the Lakota family units.
• Knowledge
  a) Students will learn the seven behavioral values of Lakota society.
  b) Students will learn about the Lakota family’s view on items of property, social relationships within family and ceremonial relationships to extended family and which collectively, are labeled kinship.
  c) Students will recognize that civility, good manners, and a sense of responsibility were paramount to being a good Lakota.
  d) Students will realize that the group or family unit was unconditionally valued above that of any individual.
• Skill
  a) Students will be able to identify three traits of Lakota kinship.
  b) Students will be able to list the seven core behavioral values.
  c) Students will be able to cite the most poignant tragedy that could befall Lakota parents.

Cultural Concept
For Lakota people, kinship is the umbrella and glue, which oversees and binds the other core values.

Cultural Background
According to Ella Deloria, kinship was the “all important matter.” It was the glue binding together the other six foundation Lakota values (generosity, integrity, courage, sociability, self control, and wisdom). Deloria states “…the ultimate aim of Dakota life, stripped of accessories, was quite simple: one must obey kinship rules and one must be a good relative”. She also notes proper attitudes and behaviors were ingrained in them from constant practice until they were automatic. It is not instinctive to be unselfish, kind,
sincere, and courteous toward others. Those are traits that have to be learned, but only by scrupulous repetition…”

**Student Activities**
Provide a handout describing and summarizing the seven core values of Lakota Society.

**References**


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