Title:
Winter Counts - Waniyetu Wowapi

Grade Level:
9-12

Theme:
The Lakota Winter Counts

Duration:
40-50 minute classes

Goal:
Students will gain an understanding for Lakota recording of history.

Objectives:
1. Students will be able to understand the Lakota method of recording history. Winter Counts pictographs were used as historical markers and thus could be used to date other events. (i.e., birth date)
2. Students will be able to explain to role of the keeper, the tiospyes historian, the illustrator of the winter count.
3. Students will understand that the Council of Elders will choose what is to be depicted that year for their tiospaye.
4. Students will understand thru comparing and contrasting different winter counts, differences or similarities in historic events.

South Dakota Standards:
-12.G.2.2.A. Students are able to evaluate how humans interact with their environment.
9-12.G.1.2. Students are able to interpret geographic representations when given information about places and events.
• Bar graph, circle graph, line graph, pictographs.

Core Standard:
9.R.4.1 Students can analyze text to determine the influence of time period, culture, geography, and author’s background.
9.R.5.1 Students can evaluate primary and secondary sources for credibility.
11.R.4.1 Students can analyze a text within cultural, geographical, and historical context.
Cultural Concept:
Lakota Winter Counts were means of keeping track of important events as determined by a group of elders. Winter counts in combination of with oral history were the means by which tiospaye’s recorded their histories and were able to refer back in time.

Cultural Background:
For generations a Keepers task was to use pictographs to record an event that had special meaning to his tiospaye that year. Wowapi means anything marked that can be read or counted. The root verb owa means to draw, paint or mark. Wa the prefix means ianythingî, or isomethingî. So we have Waniyetu(winter) Wowapi(anything painted , drawn or marked that can be read or counted.

Student activities:
1. Students will be divided into 7 tiospaye’s and assigned one of these winter counts to represent them: American Horse, Battiste Good, Cloud Shield, Flame, Lone Dog, Long Soldier, and Swan. Students will than ifind their winter counti.
2. Students will use the Smithsonian site to help interpret their Winter Counti, they will also use the overview itabî to compare and contrast the different tiospaye account of history.
3. Students will use the Smithsonian site, using topic tab and overview, to compare and contrast how Plants and Animals were depicted by the different tiospaye.
4. Students will use 1833(meteor shower) a world event, and search other sources to prove this event happened. Students will use the 1851(women in the buffalo) to explain how local events can be important to Lakota’s and not to others.
5. Each day the keeper will change to report, the council will have say on what to be reported. The last activity will be a reflection paper by each student.

Resources:
Each student will be required to have their school issued computer with them for this unit.

Assessment:
Students will be participation in group discussions, group negotiations, and reporting at the end of each day’s activity.
Students will participation in daily Class discussion.
Reflection paper on Winter Count Unit.

References:
http://wintercounts.si.edu/index.html.
