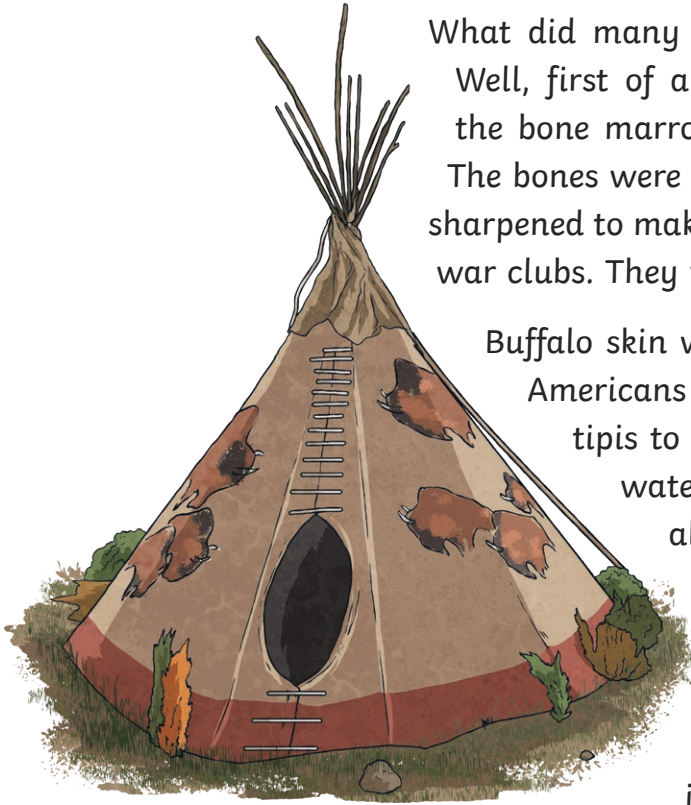


Native Americans and Buffalo



What did many Native Americans do with buffalo in the past? Well, first of all, they ate them. They even ate the brain and the bone marrow, which is the spongy tissue inside the bones. The bones were useful for something else – they were carved and sharpened to make knives and other weapons like arrow heads and war clubs. They were also boiled to make glue!

Buffalo skin was also extremely valued and useful too. Native Americans wore it to keep them warm, used it to make tipis to live in, shoes to walk in, bedding to sleep in and waterbags to drink from. The hooves were also used as cups to drink from.

If you have ever seen a painting of a Native American holding a bow, be sure to look closely at it; the bowstring would probably have been made out



of buffalo sinew, which is the tissue that connects muscle to bone. Sinew could also be used for thread.

Can you guess which part of a buffalo Native Americans could have used as a hairbrush? The tongue! Buffalo tongue is very rough, which made a perfect brush! The tongue was also considered to be one of the tastiest parts of the meat.

Even buffalo fat had its own uses, as soap and as cooking oil.

Being bothered by pesky flies? Use a buffalo tail as a fly swat to keep them away! Tails were also sometimes used for decoration.

Buffalo hair was used to fill saddles to make riding a horse a bit comfier.

This shows us that Native Americans were extremely resourceful. They found a use for every part of the buffalo.

