

“Sans Arc Lakota” Ledger Book, 1880–1881 by Black Hawk [c. 1832 – 1890]

1. What are the people doing in both of these drawings?
2. Which figures are women? How can you tell?
3. Identify repeated patterns in the drawings.
4. Describe how Black Hawk created a steady rhythm in each of these.
5. Imagine the regular drum beat to which these figures are moving – what would it sound like?
6. What materials did Black Hawk use to create fine details in these drawings?
7. Before the Lakota lived on reservations, what materials did their warrior-artists use to create similar traditional drawings of their history and traditions?
8. Compare Black Hawk’s drawing of American Indians to Catlin’s painting (6-B) and N. C. Wyeth’s painting (5-B).
9. Which of these they think shows the most historically accurate clothing. Why?
10. How is the clothing in Wyeth’s and Catlin’s art similar to that in Black Hawk’s?
11. What can we learn about the Lakota from these pictures that we might not understand if their history were just written with words?
12. What were “winter counts” and why did the Lakota and other Plains Indians create these?
13. Why was it difficult for Black Hawk and other Sans Arc Lakota families to have food during the winter of 1880–1881.?
14. How did these pictures help Black Hawk earn money to feed his family.
15. Why do you think William Edward Caton wanted these drawings?

Historical Connections: Manifest Destiny; Westward Expansion; Battle of Tippecanoe; Plains Indians; Battle of Little Bighorn; Wounded Knee

Historical Figures: Tecumseh; Andrew Jackson; William Henry Harrison; Crazy Horse; George Armstrong Custer; Geronimo

Civics: Indian Removal Act

Geography: Great Plains region

Literary Connections and Primary

Documents: *Little House in the Big Woods*, Laura Ingalls Wilder; *Four Ancestors: Stories, Songs, and Poems from Native North America*, Joseph Bruchac

Arts: compare to works by George Catlin; compare to Egyptian Book of the Dead