

Empathy & Responsibility

NM Social Studies, Career Readiness and Language Arts – Grade 2

Objective: Illustrate the role the horse played in historical Native American Culture, Illustrate what a journalist does for a living, introduce new vocabulary that relates to different careers involving animals.

Skill: Students will recognize and name symbols and activities of the tribes including storytelling. Students recount what they have learned by retelling information. Students will become familiar with careers involving animals.

Materials: *The Gift of the Sacred Dog* by Paul Goble is a collaboration of many Native American stories that reflect the traditions of Native American Indians during the Buffalo days; specifically how the Native Americans acquired the horse and the use of the horse in Native American Society. *A Pony Tale* news article from Kind News. *Would you like to work with Animals* handout.

Procedure:

1. Gather the class together in a circle and read aloud *The Gift of the Sacred Dog*, holding the book up as you read to show the students the pictures as you read. The students will likely interact. Try to keep stories to a minimum; but, encourage questions.
 - a. Ask the children if they know the meaning of the word sacred. Explain the word Sacred. Have the children guess what a sacred dog might be.
 - b. What does the page with the Indians in buffalo masks represent? The Buffalo is a symbol to the Native American Indians. They provided the Indians with almost everything they need to stay alive, food (meat), clothing, tools (bones) and housing, moccasin soles, medicine bags and much more (hides). Native American cultures, communities and way of life were surrounded around the Buffalo. The Native Americans considered the Buffalo to be relatives of the Indians.
 - c. Who does the little boy go to for help? The Great Spirit. The plains Indians believed that all things contained spirits. They believed that the Great Spirit had power over everything and that the Earth was the mother of all spirits.
 - d. How would a horse look to you if you had never seen one before? The boy says there is thunder in his nostrils, lightning in its legs, eyes like stars hair on its neck and a tail trailing like clouds.
 - e. Why is the horse called the “sacred dog”? He can do a lot of the things their dogs can do and more. He can carry the Indians and run faster than the buffalos.
 - f. What does the Great Spirit tell the boy to always do with the sacred dog? Look after him always.

- g. How did the sacred dog help the Native Americans? They carried loads for the Indians. They carried hunters into the running herds so there would always be enough to eat. The horses are happy to live with the Indians as long as they are treated well.
 - h. Why do the Indians thank the spirit of the buffalo? Because they died so that the Indians could eat.
 - i. In summary, what might have happened to the Indians if they had not received the gift of the sacred horse? Why were horses so important to Native Americans?
2. Allow students to return to their seats and pass out a copy of *A Pony Tale* to the class. Explain to the class that this article appeared in an issue of Kind News, a kids' newspaper publication. Explain what a journalist does for a living and that this article is a nonfiction/true. Read aloud as the class follows along. As you read, point out the headline of the story, the lead sentence, the subheading, the art & caption and related credit. Make sure the children understand vocabulary appearing in the article, including slaughtered and drought. Point out that one of the girls in the story is probably the same age as the children in the class and that despite their age, they can make a difference.
3. Pass out *Would you like to work with Animals?* handout. Have the children try to complete the worksheet in groups, by process of elimination – filling out those they do know and making an educated guess about those they don't. Walk around and assist students as necessary. Put key on the board before concluding and if time permits go over the answers with the students.

