

GLOSSARY

Anthropology: the study of humankind from a biological and cultural perspective.

Artifacts: material items that humans have manufactured or modified.

Band: basic unit of social organization usually comprised of approximately 100 people who share a common identity; it often splits up seasonally.

Cottage industry: an industry whose labor force consists of family units or individuals working at home with their own equipment.

Culture: a learned pattern of behavior (i.e., traditions and customs) characteristic of a society.

Cultural relativism: the position that the values and standards of cultures differ but deserve equal respect.

Indigenous peoples: the original inhabitants of particular territories; often descendants of tribespeople who live on as culturally distinct peoples, many of whom aspire to autonomy.

Keeper: a male member of a Lakota community whose role was to preserve and record the oral history of his people by maintaining a winter count.

Lakota: a group of Native North American people who share a common language, customs and beliefs. They once occupied the western parts of the Great Plains but now live mainly in North and South Dakota. Also called Teton or Teton Sioux.

Mnemonic device: an object, drawing or symbol used to aid the recollection of a certain memory or thought.

Nation: once a synonym for “ethnic group,” designating a single culture sharing a language, religion, history, territory, ancestry and kinship; now usually a synonym for state or nation-state.

Nomadic: term used to describe a group of people who constantly move throughout the year from one area to another in pursuit of food, shelter and other resources.

Oral history: a tradition of relaying past events through spoken word; storytelling.

Pictograph: a functional two-dimensional drawing created to represent an idea, person or event.

Primary source: a document, speech, or other sort of evidence written, created or otherwise produced during the time under study. Primary sources offer an inside view of a particular event. Examples include: original documents, creative works or artifacts.

Secondary source: a document that interprets, analyzes, or synthesizes information, usually produced by someone not directly involved in the subject.

Sioux: a large group of Native North American people who originally occupied a vast area of the Great Plains but now live mainly in North and South Dakota. The Sioux are divided into Eastern, Middle, and Western groups, each with their own dialects and customs.

Tradition: an long-established but continually evolving custom or belief that has been handed down from one generation to another and represents the unbroken development of a single culture.

Tribe: a descent and kinship-based group in which subgroups are clearly linked to one another, with the potential of uniting a large number of local groups for common defense or warfare. Individual communities tend to be integrated into the larger society through kinship ties.

Winter Count: a pictographic record, year by year, of a community’s history. Maintained by the keeper, a winter count serves as a reference to remember the group’s oral history.