

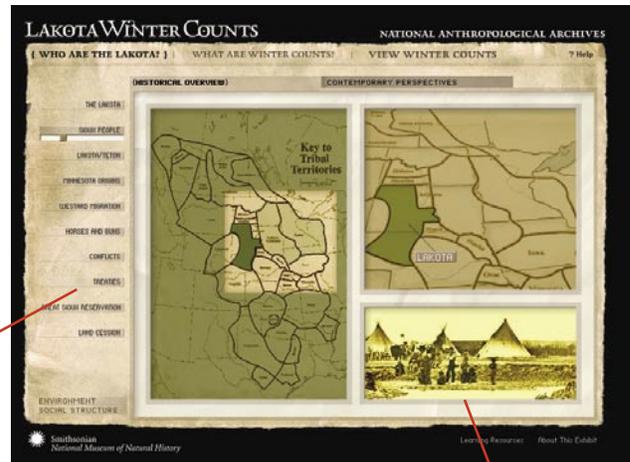
# USING THE ONLINE RESOURCE

The National Museum of Natural History's Lakota Winter Count online exhibit is divided into three main sections featuring descriptions of Lakota life during the nineteenth century and the history of the winter counts, interviews by contemporary Lakota community members, and a searchable database of images from the winter counts along with their anthropological data. By exploring each section, teachers and students will be better able to study the winter counts and understand their unique value as primary sources of American history from the 18th to 20th centuries.

## Historical overview

The first two sections, "Who are the Lakota?" and "What are winter counts?" provide background information for educators to familiarize themselves with the content of the online exhibit. Photographs from the National Anthropological Archives are included as primary sources throughout.

Information by topic



Archival photographs

Interview by topic



Digital video interview

Other interviewees

## Contemporary perspectives

During the winter of 2003, members of the project team recorded interviews with several Lakota community members on Lakota reservations in the northern Great Plains region. Selections from these interviews are available in the section, "What are Winter Counts?" The full interviews can be viewed in the section, "Who are the Lakota?" These are valuable resources for not only gaining a contemporary understanding of the Lakota people, but also for appreciating the importance of the oral history tradition in American Indian culture.

## The searchable database

“View Winter Counts” is a searchable database that allows users to sort through every annual entry included in the ten winter counts featured on the online exhibit. Users can search by winter count, year, or keyword. In order to facilitate searching capabilities, some common topics have been identified and can be selected for searching. These topics are: plants and animals, ceremonies, health, trade goods, places, people, U.S. Government, and the Sky.

**Search by year**

**Search by winter count**

**Search by common theme**

**Search by keyword**

When a pictograph is selected, a larger image appears along with its Lakota year, English year, name of keeper, Collector’s notes, and explanatory comments. By selecting “collect this winter count” you can save the entry in a temporary holding screen called “My Winter Count.” You can e-mail your collection of entries to yourself for later use in projects or reports.

Information about the collection history of each count, including a biographical sketch of its collector and/or keeper, can be accessed by clicking the “Artifact” tab. Using the navigation tools located below the image, you to enlarge, shrink, and rotate the winter count to best suit your needs.

**Collector's notes**

**Artifact history**

**Collection tool**

**Collector's notes**

**Artifact history**

**Navigation tools**