

Waniyetu Wowapi (winter count)

Recording the Past and the Future

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Procedure: During this lesson the students will learn about the similarities and differences between winter counts and other methods of recording events like timelines, history books, scrapbooks, encyclopedias, journals/diaries and calendars. The students will develop a pictorial image of an upcoming event found on their family calendar. (K-5: Modify as needed for level of understanding and grade level.)

Background information and Materials:

- Winter Counts – One image representing important event of the year
 - The Smithsonian:
 - [Lone Dogs Winter Count Guide Teacher Guide](#)
 - [Lakota Winter Count: Online Exhibit](#) (Interactive)
 - [Lakota Winter Count: Online Exhibit](#) (html)
 - Power Point: Victor Douville, Sinte Gleska University ([Winter Count](#); [Wajaje-Cokatowela Shirts](#))
 - St. Francis Mission: [Waniyetu Yawapi \(Lakota Winter Counts\)](#)
 - UNL: [Winter Counts as Possible Precursors to Writing](#)
 - UC Irvine: [Anderson Winter Count](#)
 - State Historical Society South Dakota
 - [Buffalo and the Plains Indians](#) (South Dakota State Historical Society [Educational Kit](#))
 - State Historical Society North Dakota - [High Dog's Winter Count](#)
- Timeline – Many timelines are similar to winter counts; the events are usually represented by a date, textual explanation and image.
 - [Homeland: Plains Indian Timeline](#)
 - [SD State Capitol Timeline](#)
 - [National Museum of American History](#)
 - [American Experience: War Letters Timeline](#)
- Examples of history books and encyclopedias – Very detailed textual and pictorial account of history.
- Examples of journals/diaries – Usually a written account of daily events.
- Examples of scrapbooks – Many are similar to winter counts; events are arranged chronological with photos and minimal text.
- Example of various calendars – Written reminder of future event.

Process The students will view (compare and contrast) winter counts, timelines, history books, scrapbooks, encyclopedias, journal/diaries and calendars. Then the students will bring a calendar from home and select an upcoming event. The students will select an event from the calendar and replace the text with a pictorial representation of the event.

What to expect: The students should realize that recording events on a winter count is one method of preserving history just like history books, encyclopedias, journals, timelines, etc. Important events are captured for future generations to learn about historical events. The students should also conclude that calendars are different because they are designed to record future events.

