The Memorable Chiefs

Developed by the Blackfeet Indians of the Blackfeet Reservation

Geographical Area: Plains Region

Vocabulary: Piegans Gestures Mental Vision Crier Regalia Portrayed Sincerity Encampment Memorable Physical Band Consideration

Reading Motivators:

Discuss the qualities of being a good leader.

a) Discuss the responsibilities of leadership of an Indian tribe in the past (i.e., leading the tribe in acquiring basic needs, such as food, shelter, clothing, etc.).

b) What would be required of that leader in the present (i.e., leading the tribe in business affairs)?

Read aloud a story of a famous chief, both past and present.

Ask a local tribal leader to relate personal stories of their past life and present responsibilities.

Discussion Topics:

Discuss how achievements were recognized.

Discuss the leadership roles in the tribe and the family.

Discuss the importance of elders in tribal organizations.

Discuss the qualities of what would make a good leader. How might an individual earn a leadership position?

Follow-up Activities:

1. Make a bulletin board showing good leadership characteristics and qualities. Use newspaper articles, pictures of leaders, etc.

2. Give a group a problem. Have the group devise a process to solve the problem.

3. Give students an issue/problem. Let them debate the issue and try to persuade others to follow (i.e., allow students to make and enforce their own classroom guidelines for a week).