Medicine Woman Saves Flatheads From Warring Enemy

Developed by The Flathead Culture Committee of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Montana

Geographical Area: Plateau Region

Vocabulary:  
- warring  
- twitching  
- knoll  
- dismounted  
- stray  
- barricade  
- agony  
- pitiful  
- hysterical  
- surroundings

Reading Motivators:  
Show pictures and discuss the resulting destruction of war in terms of human lives and property on both sides.

Invite a guest speaker to discuss possible topics:

a) medicine power (unacceptable to some tribes)

b) veterans or the effects of war

c) tribal languages in your area

Discuss premonitions and the effects they might have on one’s actions.

Discussion Topics:  
Have students list the medicine powers Elizabeth showed in the story.

Discuss the role of guns in warfare and their superiority over the traditional weapons of the Indians.

Let students analyze their own “powers,” abilities and talents.

Discuss the concepts of “mass retaliation” and “an eye for an eye.”

Follow-up Activities:  
1. Assign students to report on the portable housing used by many tribes. Perhaps have a local person set up a tepee.

2. Create a wintercount which recreates the battle (see Level IV Wintercount Activity Card 6A-6B). Use pictographs (see Level IV Pictographs Activity Card 6C-6D).