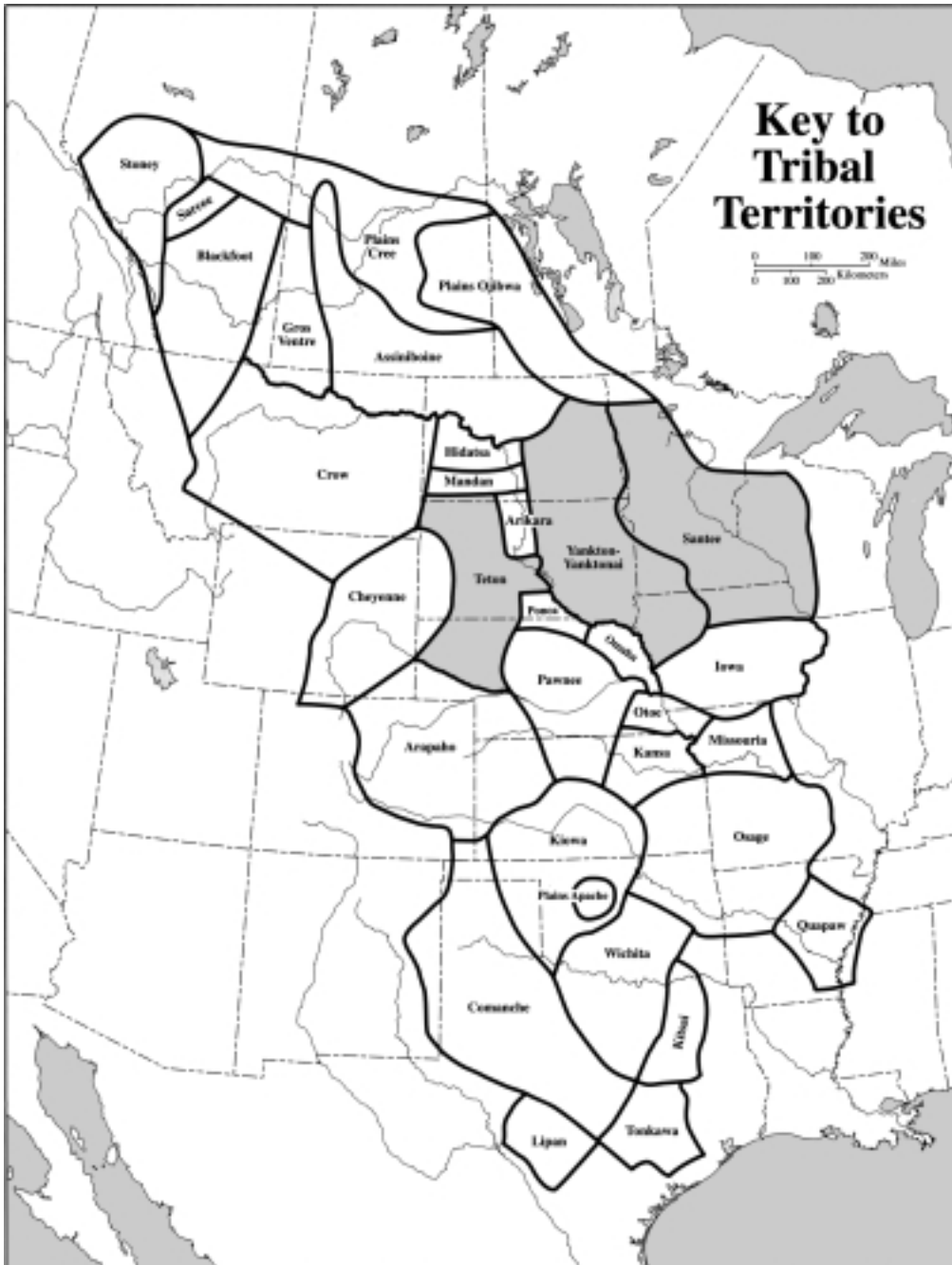


Sioux



Chief Hollow Horn Bear, Brulé Sioux, ca. 1900.

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The term “Sioux” is used to refer to 14 tribes whose territory extended from present-day Wisconsin to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. There are three main divisions of the groups known as Sioux: the Santee, Yankton-Yanktonai, and Teton. Collectively, the Sioux was the largest of the Plains groups. Before the middle of the 17th century, the Sioux lived in the Great Lakes area, where their lifestyle included gathering wild rice and beans, fishing, and hunting. Warfare with the Ojibwa drove the Santee into southern and western Minnesota, and the Teton and Yankton groups were forced onto the northern Great Plains where they adopted a nomadic Plains lifestyle centered on buffalo hunting.

Many of the Sioux groups strongly resisted intrusion of white settlers into their territory in the 1800s. Several treaties with the United States established reservations for various groups; however, continued encroachment on their lands and conflict with the United States resulted in loss of much of their territory and/or removal to other areas. There are about 40,000 Sioux in the United States today, large numbers of whom live on reservations in Minnesota, the Dakotas, Montana, and northern Nebraska. Many

of the Plains items on display in the Museum are the work of people of various Sioux tribes, particularly the Teton groups.

War Clubs

Warfare was a way of life on the Great Plains and was a means to unite tribes as well as a test of personal courage and spiritual power. Tribal warfare generally

tending to involve small raids rather than large battles between tribes. Sioux men were particularly well-known as skilled warriors. Stone-headed war clubs were often used in battle even after firearms were acquired because prestige was gained through actually striking the enemy. In later times, these types of clubs were made and carried by men as signs of status rather than for use as weapons.



Yanktonai Sioux man holding pipe and tobacco pouch, ca. 1900.

Pipe Bags

As with other Plains groups, pipe smoking was an important part of Sioux religion and ceremony. Long wooden stems were attached to pipe bowls, which were filled with tobacco and other materials such as willow bark. Men carried their smoking equipment in long pipe bags like the one on display. Typical Sioux pipe bags consisted of three design elements: a beaded central panel, a section of quill-wrapped rawhide strips, and deerskin fringe.

Feather Cap

Chief Hollow Horn Bear, a prominent Brulé Sioux, reportedly wore the feather and buckskin cap on display. He attended the presidential inaugurations of Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson, and his image appeared on a U.S. 14-cent postage stamp and on a five-dollar silver certificate. The cap was given to Western artist Remington Schuyler, who was a friend of Hollow Horn Bear's.



Sioux woman pulling quills from a porcupine, 1908.

Quillwork

Before white traders arrived with beads, quillwork was the major decorative art of Plains women. Porcupine or bird quills were flattened, dyed with colors obtained from roots and berries, and sewn or wrapped onto skin items.

Resources

- Davis, Mary B. *Native America in the Twentieth Century*. Garland Publishing, 1996.
 DeMallie, Raymond J. *Handbook of North American Indians*, Vol. 13, *Plains*. Smithsonian Institution Press, 2001.
 Dyck, Paul. *Brulé: The Sioux People of the Rosebud*. Northland Press, 1971.
 Rosebud Reservation Web Site [www.littlesiou.org].

Credits

- Map from DeMallie (p. ix). Photos are from Dyck (Hollow Horn Bear, p. 73; Two Strike, p. 59); DeMallie (Yanktonai Sioux man, p. 787; Woman pulling quills, p. 811).



Chief Two Strike, Brulé Sioux, holding stone-headed war club, ca. 1900.