



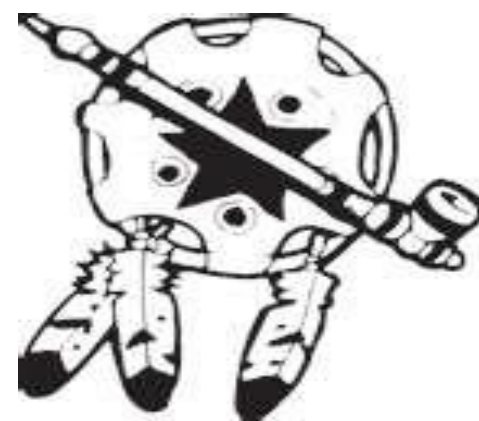
THE SUN DANCE

THE SUN DANCE IS AN ANCIENT DANCE PERFORMED MOSTLY BY WESTERN TRIBES. AT ONE TIME THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MADE THIS DANCE ILLEGAL. NOW, HOWEVER, THE SUN DANCE IS PERFORMED AS PART OF RELIGIOUS FREE EXPRESSION.



A WESTERN INDIAN AND HIS PONY

HORSES THAT ORIGINATED IN EUROPE SOON BECAME WILD IN AMERICA. COMANCHES, NEZ PERCE, LAKOTA, CHEYENNE, AND OTHER WESTERN INDIANS USED THE HORSE IN BUFFALO HUNTING AND IN WAREFARE.



THE PRAYER PIPE AND MANDELLA

IT IS SAID THE PRAYER PIPE ORIGINATED WITH THE LAKOTA INDIANS. FROM ANCIENT TIMES ESSENTIALLY ALL INDIANS USED THE PIPE IN CEREMONY USING TOBACCO AND OTHER KINDS OF HERBS AND PLANTS. THE MANDELLA SYMBOLIZES THE WAR SHIELD AND THE SACRED CIRCLE.



ART OF NORTHWESTERN FIRST NATIONS

NORTH WESTERN INDIANS HAD THEIR OWN FORM OF ART. THE TOTEM POLE MADE OF CARVED WOOD CONTAINED VARIOUS REPRESENTATIONS OF ANIMALS OR SPIRITS.



MAYAN ART

THE MAYANS OF SOUTHERN MEXICO AND NORTHERN CENTRAL AMERICA BUILT PYRAMIDS AND HAD SOPHISTICATED ART. THEY ALSO HAD A FAR REACHING CALENDAR THAT COMES TO AN END IN THIS YEAR OF 2012.



HAND DRUM AND BEATER

THE DRUM BEAT REPRESENTS THE HEART BEAT OF MOTHER EARTH.

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