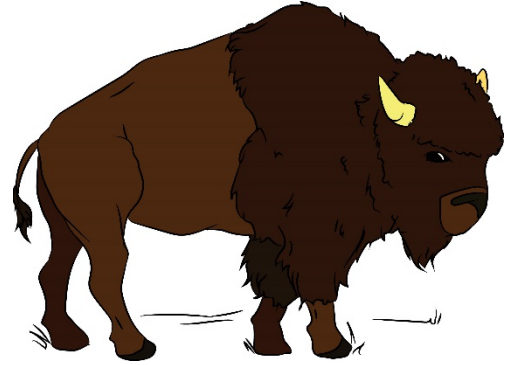




# Dakota Information Card

## p̄teh̄c̄ek̄a buffalo



For the Dakota people who lived on the plains, the buffalo is sacred. It is a source of unending strength, and is the symbol of generosity. This sacred animal of the plains represents the life force itself - the vitality of the earth that is transmitted to the people through the animal.

The buffalo supplied everything for the Dakota people: the meat for food, the hide and fur for shelter, blankets and clothing and the bones for tools and weapons for the Dakota, Lakota, Nakota, Cree, Saulteaux, and Métis people.

Hunting the bison could be dangerous and took skilled hunters.

The slaughtering of the buffalo by settlers forced the Dakota people to search for new ways to live. Today, education is referred to as the “new buffalo,” since education helps Indigenous peoples survive in this world.

### Recommended children’s books:

[The Secret of the White Buffalo](#)  
[Buffalo Learns Respect](#)  
[Buffalo Dreams](#)  
[The Return of the Buffaloes](#)  
[Honouring the Buffalo: a Plains Cree legend](#)  
[Tatanka and the Lakota People a Creation Story](#)

CJ Taylor  
David Bouchard (Sikiska)  
Kim Donne(white buffalo)  
Paul Goble  
Judith Silverthorne

### Information adapted from:

- "Whitecap Dakota Elders Meetings." Interviews by author 2016-2017
- [http://www.history.alberta.ca/headsmashedin/docs/buffalo\\_tracks.pdf](http://www.history.alberta.ca/headsmashedin/docs/buffalo_tracks.pdf)
- <http://www.sicc.sk.ca/archive/saskindian/a93aug03.htm>