

Tasunka

A LAKOTA HORSE LEGEND

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

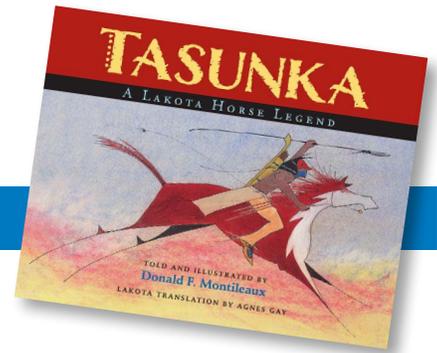
Themes: American Indian Culture, Legends, Plains, Hunting

Book Brief: A young warrior sets out on a search for food and instead discovers a creature called horse (Tasunka).

Author and Illustrator:

Donald F. Montileaux

Content Connections: Social Studies



TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Ask students to predict what they think this horse legend is going to be about based on the title and cover illustration.

The Pictures: Tell students that the author/illustrator used a technique called ledger art. Ledger art is a term for narrative drawing or painting on paper or cloth. The term comes from the accounting ledger books that were a common source of paper for Plains Indians during the late 19th century.

Prior Knowledge: Find out what students already know about the Lakota Sioux. Show on a map where the Lakota people originated and where they live today. Ask students to think about what North America was like before European colonists arrived. Can they name any animals or plants the colonists brought with them from Europe?

Vocabulary: legend, Great Spirit, Tasunka

Purpose for Reading: As we read, think about connections you can make between this text and other fiction or nonfiction texts you have read about American Indians.

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ What type of animal do you think he is hunting?
- ◆ How is the hunter disguising himself?
- ◆ What type of clues would a tracker look for?
- ◆ What does the author mean by “fire surrounding their heads and flowing from their bodies”?

- ◆ Why did they not hunt the horses?
- ◆ What is another name for blending in?
- ◆ How do you think the hunter was received after being gone so long?
- ◆ What had the people done to upset the Great Spirit?
- ◆ How did the horses reenter into the tribe's daily life?

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: What text to text connections did you make between this book and others you have read?

Extending Our Thinking: Discuss with a partner a favorite story that you have heard through someone in your family. Why is storytelling important for keeping traditions and culture alive? Horses are not native to North America; they were introduced by Spanish explorers. Why do you think horses became such a big part of life in North America? Discuss the advantages that horses would have given to a tribe living on the plains.

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



Reading Is Fundamental