

Lakota Winter Count

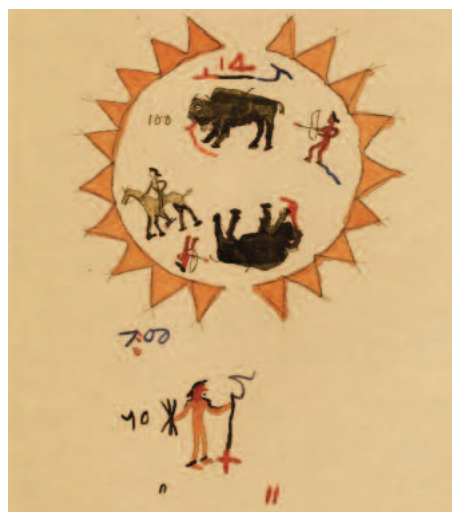
- Date** ■ Recorded in 1907
Place ■ Rosebud Agency (near Yankton, South Dakota)
Type of Source ■ Daily Life
Author ■ High Hawk
Historical Context ■ Lakota, or Sioux, bands recorded important, memorable events every winter as pictures on hides. Tribal historians, called Keepers, consulted with other tribe members to select a single significant event to mark a year. The Keeper would then draw a pictograph representing the event on buffalo hides. High Hawk was a Sicangu, or Brulé, Lakota Keeper who re-drew his band's calendar and explained its meaning to American anthropologist Edward Curtis. Three years are shown below.



CIRCA 1400



1540



1680

The numbers were added by High Hawk's educated sons to record buffalo kills.

Circa 1400

The exact date of this image is uncertain. It shows early Lakota life including hunting styles and the building of camps around buffalo herds (center); cooking using water in hides (upper right); and using tamed coyotes as pack animals (upper right).

1540

In this year Lakota bands, including High Hawk's, encountered the White Buffalo Woman (the animal in the circle shows her as a buffalo), an important religious figure. She predicted the coming of the horse, shown here. However, the Lakota didn't actually see horses until 1624.

1680

This was the first year the band used horses to hunt.

Source: Northwestern University Library, Edward S. Curtis, *The North American Indian*, 2003, <<http://digital.library.northwestern.edu/curtis/>> (June 19, 2008).