

A Blackfoot Story

Created by:

Jessie Arsenault

Dustin McMaster

Eduardo Sanchez

Jacey Solway



A Special Thanks to:

Taylor Lassiter

Ms. Holmes

And

Bassano School

This project was prepared by the students of the Connections Camp of
October 2012

In southern Alberta long before the buffalo disappeared, lived a Blackfoot boy named David. He was 14 years old and he believed he could do anything in the world on his own for he was a warrior.

David's tribe, the Siksika Blackfoot, had just finished changing location of camp to follow the buffalo. As he watched entire families set up tipis he began to think he could build one all by himself without the help of his family.



The next day, David began to brag to all of his friends that he was confident he could show his elders how independent he could be. Nobody believed him!

To prove them all wrong, David woke up early the next morning to start gathering all the spare tipi poles in the camp, along with a deerskin canvas his father had not finished. He dragged the poles as far away from the camp as possible so no one could see him. Dragging the poles was a big job for young David and the canvas was very heavy.



As David stood there exhausted and cold with the morning wind blowing in his face, he suddenly remembered what he had to do and started with the skeleton.



David's father could see what his son was doing but was not going to give him any advice. His father and the other men were preparing their weapons and getting ready for a hunt.

David was going to have to learn for himself that he needed the support of his family and the tribe to be successful.



David was able to stand up several poles by himself. However, while trying to grab another pole, the first mistake took place. They all fell to the ground before he could fasten them securely all together.

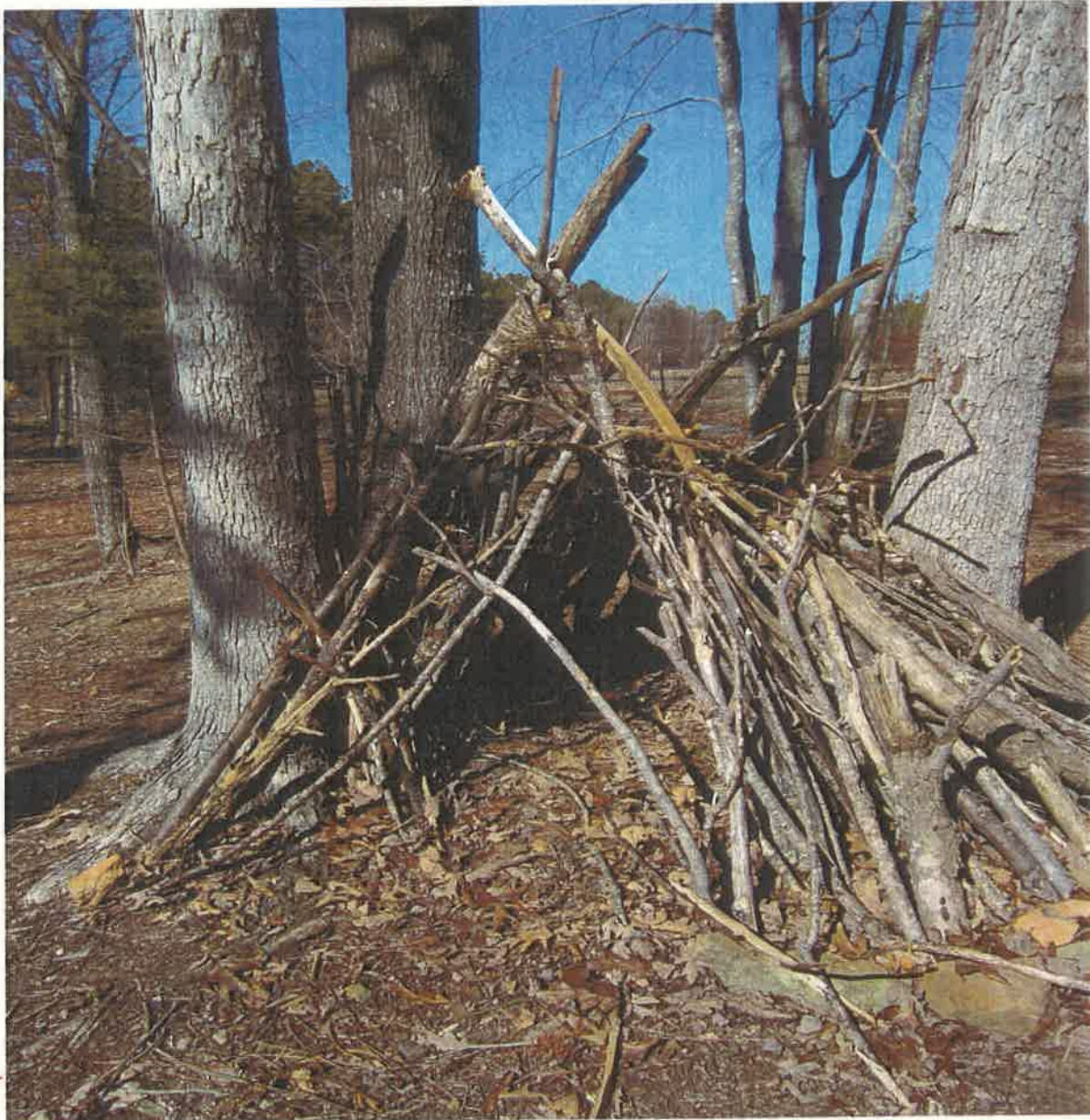
This made David very angry and frustrated but he was still determined to build the tipi on his own.



David knew he couldn't give up now. For his second attempt, he waited once again until the next morning. The sun had just come over the horizon when he began once more. This time, he decided he would try to prop the poles against a tree!



When David finished putting the last pole against the tree, he paused. His tipi was a little unusual looking but it was all his own work. David stood back with his hands on his hips and smiled as he stared at the glory.



Just then, a big gust of wind came rushing through the valley. The tree shook, and shook, and shook until ALL the poles fell off the tree!



Feeling defeated, David began to gather his poles and hides and took them back to where his family was camped.

“I am NEVER going to try to build a tipi on my own again!” He thought unhappily. “I cannot do this on my own.”

David arrived at camp with his head hanging down in shame, fearing that all his friends and family were going to laugh at him!

To his surprise, his family and friends were waiting anxiously for his return. His father only smiled at his stubbornness. They rushed up to him, took the poles and began to build the tipi as a team.



David learned an important lesson that day. He learned that family is the foundation of his Blackfoot culture. Families need to help each other, especially when constructing a tipi.

No matter how stubborn you are you cannot do **EVERYTHING** on your own. Don't be too proud to ask for help.





<https://www.google.ca/search?hl=en&q=blackfoot+culture&bav=on.2.or.r.gc.r.pw.r.qf.&bvm=bv.1355534169,d.cGE&bpcl=40096503&biw=792&bih=425&wrapid=tlif135601782302710&um=1&ie=UTF-8&tbnm=isch&source=og&sa=N&tab=wi&ei=7TDTUMTKB6L0iQLT64CgDA>

https://www.google.ca/search?hl=en&q=blackfoot+culture&bav=on.2.or.r.gc.r.pw.r.qf.&bvm=bv.1355534169,d.cGE&bpcl=40096503&biw=792&bih=425&wrapid=tlif135601782302710&um=1&ie=UTF-8&tbnm=isch&source=og&sa=N&tab=wi&ei=7TDTUMTKB6L0iQLT64CgDA#um=1&hl=en&tbo=d&tbnm=isch&sa=1&q=teepee+&og=teepee+&gs_l=img.3..0i10.38405.46546.0.47405.16.12.0.1.1.3.250.1297.5j5j1.11.0...0.0...1c.1.-J1xZp0G5pw&bav=on.2.or.r.gc.r.pw.r.qf.&bvm=bv.1355534169,d.cGE&fp=13064e947cc9dd6f&bpcl=40096503&biw=1024&bih=571

<http://www.google.ca/imgres?um=1&hl=en&tbo=d&biw=1024&bih=571&tbnm=isch&tbnid=eARQlufJbf-jEM:&imgrefurl=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/cool/002027-2201-e.html&docid=gIs89Vlw1qY52M&imgurl=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/002027/11/nlc010274-v6.jpg&w=600&h=435&ei=iDHTUI6rMcmXigKcjlHwAQ&zoom=1&iact=rc&dur=63&sig=104067100939820156625&page=1&tbnh=151&tbnw=205&start=0&ndsp=15&ved=1t:429,r:8,s:0,i:109&tx=136&ty=127>

http://www.google.ca/imgres?um=1&hl=en&tbo=d&biw=1024&bih=571&tbnm=isch&tbnid=aPnAyG75RvWBPM:&imgrefurl=http://indianspictures.blogspot.com/2012/01/blackfoot-indian-pictures.html&docid=fKs8sNQTOgOvCM&imgurl=http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-cpYHbhbrA/TyGn1KEPshI/AAAAAAAACI/UeNWyrbc0Cw/s1600/American Indian Blackfoot-Picture warrior.jpg&w=600&h=797&ei=3zHTUK_DFaa7igKWw4HgCQ&zoom=1&iact=hc&vpx=2&vpy=152&dur=421&hovh=259&hovw=195&tx=74&ty=223&sig=104067100939820156625&page=1&tbnh=161&tbnw=116&start=0&ndsp=18&ved=1t:429,r:5,s:0,i:100