



Reading #1 Neighbors

Unit 1 Lesson 2

Neighbors and Trade

To the west, the land belonged to the Paiutes, the Shoshones, and other Great Basin peoples. Before they had horses, the Ute people shared many ways of life with their western neighbors. The Navajo and Pueblo peoples lived in the south. Ute people went to their land to trade furs and for blankets and pottery.

When they had horses, many Ute people rode into eastern Colorado and western Kansas. The Plains peoples, their eastern neighbors, lived there. Ute hunters brought some of their neighbors water. Soon Ute people had decorated tipis.* Women learned to do beautiful beadwork. When they had more rawhide,* the people carried their food and tools in hide* bags.

The people's neighbors were not always friendly. Sometimes the hunters met enemy warriors on the plains. Since the Ute people were brave in battle, the enemies feared them. If an enemy followed them to their homes, they went high into the mountains. There in the land that they knew so well, no enemy could defeat* them.

A child had to learn about these things too. To find his way home from strange lands, he had to read the stars. The sky also showed him what time it was and when the seasons would change. He had to remember what the land looked like at night, on a rainy day, or in a snowstorm. He had to judge which neighbors would be his enemies. He had to learn how to





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defend himself if they attacked him. He had to learn which men he could trust and which men would be good leaders.

*tipis: a portable cone shaped tent made from animal hide or cloth

*rawhide: the skin of a cow or buffalo before it has been prepared and made into leather

*hide: the skin of a large animal

*defeat: to fail or lose

Source: *The Northern Ute History Curriculum Project*. Used with permission from the Ute Indian Tribe.

The Elk Skin Tent, 1874.



Source: Photograph from The Library of Congress. <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2006676630/>

