



KETTLES

Technology affects us every day. Cell phones, iPads and the Internet have changed the way we live in the United States. Sometimes more common items cause big changes in our daily lives.

What did people use to cook their meals before they had pots and pans? For 1500 years, Indians in North America used clay pots or buffalo stomachs to cook their food. It was hard to cook meat and vegetables this way. Sometimes everything did not get hot. Sometimes the food did not get done. Cleaning a buffalo stomach was hard to do. Clay pots broke easily. Cooking meals for their families was hard work for Indian women.

Early European explorers brought metal cooking kettles to trade for furs. Kettles made Indian life better. Metal cooking pots heated fast and cooked the food completely. Cleaning the pot was much easier than cleaning a buffalo stomach. Cooking pots might dent, but they were hard to break. They were easy to pack on a horse. Cooking kettles meant better meals, easier clean-up and safer transport. Cooking pots changed the lives of Indian families in many ways.