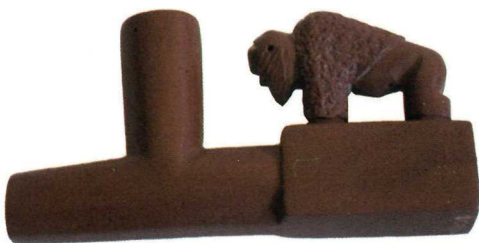




Pipes of Peace



More than a "Peace Pipe"

The term "Peace Pipe" is the result of European-Americans seeing their use at treaty signings. Indigenous tribes often used pipes to show peaceful intentions, so this term was given to an item that settlers knew very little about. For Indigenous people, the pipe has always had far greater cultural significance. The pipe is used for communication between the Great Spirit and human beings.

For many people, when a pipe is used for prayer, those prayers are carried to the Great Spirit on the smoke. The pipe is used in many religious and civil ceremonies in much the same manner as it has been for centuries.

Where did American Indians get tobacco?

Traditionally, tribes such as the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara cultivated large amounts of tobacco (saakawí'u' to the Arikara) and traded it to other tribes. The surrounding prairie also provided many options. Red osier dogwood bark (Ninigahe Zhide to the Omaha-Ponca) has always been a significant source. Along with dogwood, mixtures of sumac leaves, bearberry, rose bushes, and leadplant were and still are used today.

Sacred Pipe

As expressed in Indigenous
languages:

canunpa wakan

Oceti Šakowin (D/Lakota)

ee-gu-bi

Hidatsa

hAahnaaWlskahts

Arikara

i-hii-ke

Mandan

ninibá waxube

Omaha and Ponca

rahnuwe waxonyitą

Ioway and Otoe-Missouria