

Practice SQ3R on the following passage from a History Textbook:

3. A Caddo War Party Returns Home, 1687

One morning at daybreak a troop of women enter our hut who were painted and smeared. When they had all entered, they began to sing various songs in their language at the top of their voices; after which, they began a kind of circle dance holding each other's hands. For what purpose were they performing this ceremony that lasted a good two or three hours? We learned that it was because their people had come back victorious over their enemies. As soon as the village had heard it, they all gathered in the way that I have told. Their dance ended with a few presents of tobacco that those in the hut made to the women who had come. I noticed during their dance that, from time to time, some of them took one of the scalps that was in the hut and made a show of it, presenting it first from one side, then the other, as if to jeer at the tribe from which the scalp had come. At noon, one of the warriors also arrived at our hut, apparently the one who had brought the news of the enemies' defeat.

This Indian told us that the people of his village had indeed killed 40 of the enemy and that the others had taken flight; at this news, everyone displayed great joy. But what disturbed me then was to see that, as joyful as these women were, they broke out crying. I was fearful, as always, of some malicious plan against us according to what I had heard in the past. After all these ceremonies, the women went to work; pounding corn, some parching it and others making bread. They were preparing to bring the food to the warriors....

We learned then of the way they had proceeded: they had met, surprised and struck terror into their enemies with a few gunshots fired by our men who, having killed a few of them, drove the others to flee. Indeed, before any of them had been killed, the enemy was waiting staunchly, not demonstrating any fear. But hearing the shots from the guns, of which they had no understanding, they ran as fast as possible. In this way, our Indians killed or captured 48 individuals, men as well as women and children. They killed several women who had climbed trees to hide as they could not escape by running, not having enough time to follow along with the others.

Few men found themselves thus defeated, but the women were left for victims because it was not the Indians' custom to give any mercy except to children. They cut off the scalp of a woman still alive, after which they asked our people for a charge of powder and a bullet which they gave the woman and sent her back to her tribe telling her to give that to her people as a warning that they should expect the same treatment in the future.

I believe I have spoken elsewhere of this practice of taking scalps. It involves cutting the skin all around the head down to the ears and the forehead. They

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A Caddo War Party Returns Home, 1687 (pp. 31-33)

Survey:

This text describes the days after a Native American war party returns home after a battle.

What do you know about this already?

How does it relate to other course material?

Question:

What happened when a Caddo war party returned from battle?

Read

Recite:

- Ceremony/celebration lasted approx. 4 days total; war party only spared children, one captured woman scalped and sent back to her tribe as warning
- Day 1: Women painted selves, danced/sang in hut for several hrs; presents of tobacco and showing of scalps/heads; food prepared for warriors; captured woman tortured by women and sacrificed/served to warriors.
- Days 2-4: Celebrations at hut of chief and cadis (captains). Eulogy/oration, presentation of scalps by warriors, food, dancing, presents of tobacco

Review:

- How does this text expand your knowledge of Caddo culture or Native American culture?
- How does it compare with contemporary American culture?
- What is the value of rituals like this one conducted by the Caddo?