

Pictures of the Year

by Rachelle Kreisman



People today take lots of photos. Many people use cell phones to photograph their daily lives with friends and family.

Some photographs are really memorable. They capture important events, such as birthday parties or weddings, or they show beautiful places. Years later, people may look at these special photos to remember the past.

Long ago, however, cameras had not been invented yet. How did people back then record important moments?

Some people told stories about old times. Others wrote down what they remembered. Some people made special drawings to help them recall important moments. Among those people were Native Americans of the Lakota tribe.

Every year, Lakota leaders decided which event was most important. A Lakota artist was then asked to draw a special picture of that event. Because each year's picture was decided on during the winter, the drawings

became known as winter counts.

For a long time, winter counts were drawn on animal skins. Later, the drawings were done on paper. The pictures told the history of the tribe. Each year, the newest winter count was added to the Lakota collection of pictures from earlier times. That helped people keep track of the years.

Today, winter counts are important records of the Lakota's past.

event e - vent

Definition

noun

1. something that happens, especially an important thing that happens.

The newspaper reports on current world events.

Advanced Definition

noun

1. a distinct happening or occurrence; something that takes place.
2. a happening of significance.
3. a social occasion.
4. in sports, a specific contest in a series of contests, as in horse racing.

Spanish cognate

evento: The Spanish word *evento* means event.

These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. Thousands of people take part in the **event**.
2. Dinosaurs ruled the earth until an unknown catastrophic **event** made them extinct.
3. A big birthday **event** takes place on February 12 at the Lincoln Memorial.
4. Women were not allowed to vote until 1920! This year [2012] is the 92nd anniversary of that important **event**.
5. The Smokeout is a day to help people quit smoking. The American Cancer Society organizes, or runs, the **event**.
6. Since 1976, the American Cancer Society has run this **event** to help people quit smoking.
7. Every year, Lakota leaders decided which **event** was most important. A Lakota artist was then asked to draw a special picture of that **event**.
8. On a time line, **events** are ordered from left to right. The first **event** is placed on the left end and the last **event** is placed on the right end.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is a winter count?

- A. a painting made by an artist during the winter
- B. a drawing that the Lakota tribe made of an important event each year
- C. a photograph that shows a special event, like a wedding

2. This article describes two different time periods. One time period is the present day. What is the second time period?

- A. within the last ten years
- B. before the camera was invented
- C. the time right after the camera was invented

3. The Lakota leaders would only choose one event to draw each year. All together, these pictures told the history of the Lakota tribe.

Based on this evidence, what can you conclude?

- A. The Lakota's winter counts are more useful now than when they were first drawn.
- B. The Lakota's winter counts only recorded events that were important to the whole tribe.
- C. The Lakota's winter counts were meant to help people remember their own daily life.

4. Which kind of photograph from today is most like the Lakota's winter counts?

- A. photographs of special or important events
- B. photographs of daily life from a cell phone
- C. photographs of beautiful places

5. What is the main idea of this article?

- A. The Lakota people's winter counts helped them remember important events over the years.
- B. The Lakota people drew winter counts to practice their drawing skills.
- C. Cameras have made it a lot easier for people to remember events over the years.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"Some people told stories about old times. Others wrote down what they remembered. Some people made special drawings to help them recall important moments."

What does the word "recall" mean in these sentences?

- A. forget
- B. invent
- C. remember

7. Choose the answer that best completes this sentence.

The Lakota people did not have cameras or photographs, _____ they still recorded their most important events.

- A. so
- B. because
- C. but

8. According to the text, why might people today look at special photos of important events or beautiful places?

9. Why did the Lakota people draw winter counts?

10. How are the Lakota's winter counts similar to some photographs today? Use details

from the text to support your comparison.
