

## NEW WORDS:

investigate  
ramrods  
stumbled  
rawhide  
riddled  
shield

# CHIEF MOUNTAIN'S MEDICINE

Developed by the Gros Ventre Elders Board  
from the Fort Belknap Reservation

**GEOGRAPHICAL AREA:** Plains Region

**STORY TYPE(S):** Ideas of Spiritual Beliefs

### Summary:

While in search of enemies, seven men discovered a cave in the side of a hill into which large herds of buffalo disappeared. The men followed the cave which turned out to be a tunnel. At the end of the tunnel they saw a lone tepee. Only one warrior wanted to visit it. When the men returned to the entrance of the tunnel, they discovered the sun was in the same place it had been when they had entered, as if time had stood still. Later in a dream the man from the lone tepee visited the one warrior, Chief Mountain, who wanted to visit him and gave the warrior the power to come back to life. When Chief Mountain was killed in battle his sons followed the steps described in the dream and brought their father back to life.

Chief Mountain was rewarded because of the good thoughts he had towards the lone tepee dweller. Today many Indian people from various tribes go to live in large cities where they are among strangers. It is often hard to anticipate how others will act in certain situations. Sometimes it is good to be suspicious or cautious.

There are medicine people, such as the owner of Lone Lodge, who have special gifts or powers and who choose to use these powers to help others. They often provide guidance and counseling in the sacred ways of a tribe. Sometimes they are able to see in the future or are able to heal people physically or spiritually. These people develop and keep their powers living a good life and remembering to respect their special gifts.

Each individual has special gifts, something that he or she can do better than others. It takes time to develop these skills or even recognize that they exist. How these talents are developed will vary but the important thing is that they are valued, not only by others, but by each individual.

Nothing worthwhile was ever achieved without some effort and hard work. But without a positive attitude about the need for that effort and hard work nothing will be accomplished.

### Teacher Guided Activities:



1. This story would present a good opportunity to have students explore careers as an extension to developing their own potential.



2. Identify some traditional and contemporary leaders in the Indian community. Read or tell their story to the class or direct students to available resources. Invite local tribal leaders to visit your class to explain how they developed their own talents.

Ask students to write a paragraph about any three people of their own choosing. Say, "If you could meet any three people in the world, past or present, who would you choose? Write a paragraph about who you would choose and why."



3. Direct students to read a biography or autobiography and share something they felt was important about the person's life with at least one other person.

This could also be shared at home with a parent, grandparent or other family member. Also ask students to discuss what characteristics the person exhibited that enabled them to achieve something significant.

**Student Activity Card(s):**  
**See Indian Leaders Card (18A-18B).**