

PAWNEE SEARCH

Take a look around our People on the Plains exhibit on the 2nd floor and see if you can find the following items.

Parfleches were made from rawhide and were used to store food or other items.



Native Americans used berries, plants, and clay to make their paints. For a paint brush, they bundled straw or grass together or used hair from an animal.



These are hide scrapers. Native American women would find a stone like this to clean the hides. Over time, the stones were worn down and would fit perfectly in the palm of their hand.



The early Pawnee were known for their pottery. They used leaves and branches to hold the pots together as they dried the clay over a fire. Afterwards, they left marks like you see on these rimsherds.



The Pawnee were a stationary tribe. This means they stayed in one spot and planted crops for food. This farming hoe is made from a bison's shoulder blade that is attached to a large stick.



This horn is made from a bison horn. These were used to give warning calls when danger was nearby.

This spoon is also made from a bison's horn. The Pawnee used stones to form and smooth the horn into their desired shape.



By 1820, the Pawnee were one of the most powerful tribes living in Nebraska. In 1831, a small pox epidemic killed over half of the tribe. By 1857, they were forced to give up most of their land to the U.S. Government.

The Pawnee were given a piece of land near Genoa, Nebraska that was less than 1% of the amount of land they once owned. In 1875, they were forced to move once more down to Oklahoma. They were promised 280,000 acres, but received less than 28,000 acres.

The Hastings Museum respectfully acknowledges that the land we are on today is the traditional and ancestral homeland of the Pawnee Nation. We remember their continued connection to this region and thank them for allowing us to live, learn, and work here. We are committed to decolonizing our work.