

Waniyetu Wowapi (winter count)

Recording the Past and the Future

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Procedure: During this lesson the students will learn about the similarities and differences between winter counts and other methods of recording events like timelines, history books, scrapbooks, encyclopedias, journals/diaries, and calendars. The students will develop a pictorial image of an upcoming event found on their family calendar. (K-5: Modify as needed for level of understanding and grade level.)

Background information and Materials:

- Winter Counts – One image representing important event of the year
 - Review: [Waniyetu Wowapi \(winter count\) Blog](#) – Background information, videos, audio interviews, and more!
- Timeline – Many timelines are like winter counts; the events are usually represented by a date, textual explanation, and image.
 - [Video Timeline](#) of Tech Development in SD
 - [Brief SD Suffrage TimeLine](#)
 - [PBS: The War](#)
 - PBS LM: [Slavery and Making of America](#)
- Examples of history books and encyclopedias – Very detailed textual and pictorial account of history.
- Examples of journals/diaries – Usually a written account of daily events.
- Examples of scrapbooks – Many are like winter counts; events are arranged chronologically with photos and minimal text.
- Example of various calendars – Written reminder of future event.

Process The students will view (compare/contrast) winter counts, timelines, history books, scrapbooks, encyclopedias, journal/diaries, and calendars. Then the students will bring a calendar from home and select an upcoming event. The students will select an event from the calendar and replace the text with a pictorial representation of the event.

What to expect: The students should realize that recording events on a winter count is one method of preserving history just like history books, encyclopedias, journals, timelines, etc. Notable events are captured for future generations to learn about historical events. The students should also conclude that calendars are different because they are designed to record future events.

