Guided Notes
They used great, wooly skins to keep warm through winter. They ate
bison meat and found uses for almost every part of the animal.
There were songs and dances honoring bison, or sung to prepare bison
Songs and dances still heard and seen at powwows today.
And it's hard to imagine anyone taking to horses faster than these
people. They became expert riders who could travel greater distances to hunt
bison.
But the people others called thought of themselves as thirteen groups,
connected by families and marriage. Some names these groups had for themselves were
Wahpetons, Sissetons, Yanktons, Oglalas, Brules, Hunkpapas, Minneconjousamong others.
Changing seasons meant movement, too. As winter approached, the villages were set up
in sheltered from cruel north winds.
American Indians who relied on bison had no choice except to live close to United States
agencies - places where they could get other kinds of meat, clothing fabric and
everything else bison once supplied.
In 1876 the Army suffered one of its most famous defeats ever. It was the year gold
seekers were pouring into the, a land Crazy Horse and Red Cloud
believed holy, a place the government once promised it would keep off-limits to settlers.
The lands set aside were Today we might ask, what did
government leaders of the time think they were doing?
The old traditions are celebrated on reservations like nowhere else, by people who live
here, and by visitors from around the world. The people of the bison are forever part of
Now bison are seen all across the state, in the park, on, and on reservations.

Reservation leaders know bison will always be part of spiritual life for some people here.