



MONTANA OUTDOORS MAGAZINE LITERACY PROGRAM EVALUATION

“From Warrior to Warrior”

name: _____

1. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was dedicated on November 11, 1921, three days after the end of World War I. Why were Elsworth GoesAhead and the seven other members of the Chief Plenty Coups Honor Guard invited to take part in the commemoration of this famous event 100 years later?

2. What did Chief Plenty Coups (1848-1932) do at the 1921 dedication of the tomb?

3. At the 1921 event, Plenty Coups offered a prayer. As he prayed he said, “I feel it an honor to the red man that he takes part in this great event today because it shows that the thousands of Indians who fought in the Great War (WWI) are appreciated by the white man.” What date has been set aside to show appreciation to U.S. veterans of all wars, and what did this day used to be called?

4. What are the two exceptional skills that Plenty Coups displayed as a young man that helped him achieve the status of chief while only in his early 20s?

5. As leader of the Crow Tribe, Plenty Coups made many trips to Washington, D.C. to negotiate. What was his main goal in these negotiations?

6. What personal qualities earned Plenty Coups the honor of representing all Indians at the dedication of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on November 11, 1921?

7. What’s the difference between soldiers buried at this tomb, and soldiers buried in other cemeteries?

8. Why was it not surprising that Plenty Coups laid his headdress and coup stick on the tomb during the 1921 ceremony?



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9. Read the sidebar titled “Counting coups.” Explain the origin and meaning of the word “coup.”

10. List all the possible ways a warrior could earn a notch on his coup stick, including non-battle related accomplishments.

11. What special honor did the U.S. Government bestow upon Chief Plenty Coups several years after the ceremony?

12. The Chief Plenty Coups State Park is one of the more unique state parks managed by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). What annual event takes place there (about 30 miles south of Billings) every September, and who is honored on this day?

13. Look at the photographs on the last page of the article, and read the captions. What would you most like to see or experience if you were to visit the Chief Plenty Coups State Park?

14. The article that you just read appeared in the November-December 2021 issue of *Montana Outdoors*. Why do you think author Tom Dickson chose “Warrior to Warrior” as the title?

15. Chief Plenty Coups’s home was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 2001. In 2021 it was announced that FWP would receive a grant of over \$140,000 from the Save America Treasures Program to help preserve the house. What is the goal of this grant program?



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Teachers:

1. Begin by asking the students if they have ever heard of Plenty Coups. Some might be familiar with Plenty Coups High School on the Crow Reservation, which is named after Chief Plenty Coups. Discuss the meaning of his name. His Crow name is *Aleek-chea-ahoosh*, which means “many achievements.” Plenty Coups’s tribe is the Apsaalooke (people of the large-beaked bird), also known as the Crow Tribe. Consult the Internet for correct pronunciations.
2. Give students a copy of the article. Have them read it silently, read it as a class, or read it to them.
3. Give students a copy of the evaluation (worksheet) and have them answer the questions.
4. If the assignment seems to be too much for the grade level you teach, consider assigning a certain number of questions (you decide how many, and each student gets to pick which ones they answer). Any questions they answer correctly beyond the required number can count as extra credit.

Answer Key

1. They were invited because Plenty Coups took part in the dedication in 1921.
2. He laid down his headdress and coup stick, and offered a prayer.
3. Veterans Day is November 11th. It used to be called Armistice Day.
4. He was an exceptional warrior and was very good at capturing tethered horses from enemy camps.
5. To keep his people on their homeland.
6. He was a respected statesman, and known for his wisdom, eloquence, and compassion.
7. Soldiers buried at the tomb were never identified – we don’t know their names.
8. The Crow people (and other Indian tribes) place high value on respecting the dead.
9. Coup is a French word that means hit, blow, or strike.
10. They could touch an enemy with a stick, weapon, or hand (without killing them), or they could capture weapons or horses from enemy camps.
11. They presented him with an official flag bearing his name.
12. The “Day of Honor” pays respect to Chief Plenty Coups and all Crow military veterans.
13. Answers will vary.
14. Answers will vary. Hopefully students will make the connection between the warrior named Plenty Coups and modern warriors such as Elsworth GoesAhead.
15. The program preserves and rehabilitates some of the most significant and iconic American structures and collections.