

## **Hunter-gatherer data sheet**

### **1. Description**

1.1 Name of Society, Language, and Language Family: Arapahoe, Algonquian language family

1.2 ISO Code: arp

1.3 Location: Central plains of The United States. Lived anywhere as high as North Dakota, and as low as Arizona or Oklahoma. They were also known to spread to eastern Colorado.

1.4 Brief History: It is believed that the Arapahoe came from an area in Minnesota and were once an agricultural society.

1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: When the Arapahos lived on the reservations there were boarding schools set up and a Catholic church was built on the Wind River Reservation. Allied with the Cheyenne.

1.6 Ecology: Lived on the great plains of North America. Grassy areas with occasional woodlands and rivers.

1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, and density: In a 1910 Census the Arapahoe population was approximately 1,419. In 2000 the population was 1,218. They lived in small bands unless times of war and then they would group together for more protection.

### **2. Economy**

2.1 Main carbohydrate: Wild roots, seeds and fruits. They used choke cherries to create many different uses.

2.2 Main protein: Buffalo. Sometimes elk, deer and fish

2.3 Weapons: bows, clubs and lances for hunting buffalo and going to war. When they met White people they eventually got breech loading guns. They had two types of bows the wooden bow and the sinew-backed which is like a compound bow. Arapahoe Indians also had hide shields but were most likely used for decoration instead of warfare.

2.4 Food storage:

2.5 Sexual division of production: Arapahoe women were in charge of the home. They took care of cleaning and cooking. The women also carried the equipment for the houses every time they moved and then they would set up the houses. The men were the hunters and warriors. Only men would become Arapahoe Chiefs. Both men and women participated in music, art and story telling.

2.6 Land tenure:

2.7 Ceramics: No ceramics. Had baskets, or used hid to create a carrying device.

2.8 Specified sharing patterns: Warriors would have to share whatever they received from war.

2.9 Food taboos: fat on tongue and around the butt of buffalo were considered a delicacy. They also drank the blood of the buffalo.

2.10 Canoes/ watercraft- probably did not use canoes because they spent most of their time chasing buffalo and buffalo were found inland on prairies.

### **3. Anthropometry**

3.1 Mean adult height: 68.03 inches tall is the average height of Arapahoe Indians.

3.2 mean adult weight:

### **4. Life History, mating, marriage**

4.1 Age at menarche:

4.2 Age at first birth:

4.3 Completed family size:

4.4 Inter-birth interval: Nursing of an infant would last up to four years as a form of birth control to control family sizes.

4.5 Age at first marriage: males were usually around 20 years old.

4.6 Proportions of marriage ending in divorce:

4.7 Percent marriages polygamous, percent males married polygamous: Polygamy was openly practiced among the Arapahoe but Polyandry was absent.

4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, and dowry: In a marriage that was set up by the family usually gifts were exchanged. Occasionally the male would provide a horse to his mother in law but that was so he could be allowed to speak to her.

4.9 Inheritance Patterns: There were no rules that told who would receive the deceased person's possessions. Usually the sibling of the person would take the stuff upon death. This would lead to the immediate family of the person to get nothing so there were usually many quandaries of who would get the possessions.

4.10 Parent- off spring interactions and conflict: The father was never present for child birth.

4.11 Homosexual activities:

4.12 Pattern of exogamy:

4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible?

4.14 What is the belief of the mothers role in procreation exactly?

4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process?

4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape:

4.17 Preferential category for spouse:

4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms:

4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extra marital partners:

4.20 If mother dies, who raises children:

4.21 Adult sex ratio:

4.22 Evidence of couvades: none

4.23 Different distinction for potential fathers:

4.24 Kin avoidance and respect: Elders were respected by not cursing or by the person controlling his noise level. Grandparents were greatly respected by children because it was usually the person they were the closest to. Brothers and sisters stayed away from each other as they got older. In laws were usually avoided. Respect was given by age and gender. Women would not look at her adult brother to show respect.

4.24 Joking relationships: Joking was in line with respect. If a person of equal makes a joke it is ok to laugh and also make jokes. If someone of respect is their then the person is usually required to sit and be quiet. Also if a man is around a sister or mother in law he is not allowed to laugh until later out of respect.

4.25 Patterns of descent:

4.26 Incest avoidance rules: Brothers and sisters were not allowed to speak to each other after puberty. If they needed to communicate one of them would have to get a messenger to inform the other of the needed information.

4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony: In a family arranged marriage the parents of the bride would provide a tipi for the couple and after they both entered their new home there would be a feast where words of wisdom is given. Also prayers are said.

4.28 In what ways does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name: Usually grandparents or elders are brought in to decide the name of the child. Sometimes the individual would have several names and these would be based on many different surrounding factors. An individual could sometimes change their name but they would have to give up a horse and then usually received at the next meeting of his age society.

4.29 Is marriage within community or outside community:

4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges: Some marriages are arranged through the family if the male likes the female. Usually a brother would have to agree upon the couple and then he would talk to the parents to decide what kind of exchange would happen. Some marriages the couple would just elope and get married.

4.31 Evidence of conflict of interest over who marries who:

## **Warfare/homicide**

4.14 Percent adult (male deaths) due to warfare:

4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death: Indians in the plains often went on war parties against their enemies. Mostly for territory in which they would buffalo hunt.

4.16 Report causes of in-group and out-group killing:

4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies(external relations): Most societies that surrounded the Arapahos were warlike tribes. They fought Utes, Shoshones, Crows, and Pawnees for territory. Usually the Cheyenne Indians were allies and they could share some territory.

4.18 Canabolism: Arapahos did not participate in Canabolism.

## **5. Socio-politocal organization and interaction**

5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size:

5.2 Mobility pattern: Each band or group had a place where they would stay in the winter time and then they would leave that area in the spring time to go hunting for buffalo and to go to war. Usually tribes would join up in the summer to perform rituals.

5.3 Political system: They had a Chief who was the leader because he already gained prestige somehow.

5.4 Post marital residence: In the Tipi given to the couple by the bride's parents.

5.5 Territorial: Yes they were territorial when other tribes tried to move in and take the territory because it created a competition for food.

5.6 Social interaction divisions:

5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: Grandparents were very close to their grandchildren. Maybe even closer than the parents.

5.8 Village and house organization: Arapahos lived in Tipi's. They also had Skin Lodges which were places for families.

5.9 Specialized village structures:

5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere: Slept on a bed with a fram that was a couple inches off the ground.

5.11 Social organization: They had age societies and whichever age group they were in pretty much defined their social rank.

5.12 Trade: Arapahos traded with white people to receive tobacco, and whiskey.

5.13 Indications of social hierarchies:

## **6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion**

6 Time allocation to RCR:

6.1 Specializations: There were medicine men. They were thought to be able to control fertility and infertility by creating a concoction of herbs.

6.2 Stimulants: Smoked Tobacco, peyote

6.3 Passage rituals:

6.4 Other rituals: Sun dance, Age societies, Buffalo Lodge, and Rabbit Lodge. These all consisted of different rituals.

6.5 Myths: The Arapahoe believe that all of their lodges came from a vision a man had. In the man's vision he was hunting a buffalo cow and before he was going to shoot she asked him to spare her life and in doing so she told him that there will be many different lodges for his societies and each one they could use her body for many different things.

6.6 Cultural material:

6.7 Sex differences in RCR:

6.8 Missionary effect: Missionaries were able to convert some of the Arapahoe to Christianity.

6.9 RCR revival:

6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: Arapahos believed that when someone died their spirit would head towards the rising sun and below the mountains which they thought was a long road. They believed that a warrior who died while in battle was able to take a comfortable path instead of following the long trail discussed above. They also believed in reincarnation and some people came back as baby's and others could come back as other things. Mourners could mourn anywhere from one year to three years. At the funeral everyone would wear old clothes and wear their hair down. After they would have a Paint Ceremony to cleanse them they could put their hair back up and the grieving would be finished.

6.11 Taboo of naming the dead:

6.12 Is there teknonymy:

6.13 Briefly describe religion:

## **7. Adornment**

7.1 Body paint: Young women would paint their face to signify war and older women would paint their face to symbolize peace. Faces would be painted for ceremonies. Face paint was a sign of happiness and was not worn to mourn.

7.2 Piercings: wore earrings made from feathers, bone, and shells.

7.3 Haircut: Hair was worn in many different styles. Some wore the hair in braids and some wore the hair to hang loose.

7.4 Scarification:

7.5 Adornment: Arapahos wore clothing made out of buffalo, deer, or elk skin. They women would dry out the hide and then tan it to create a soft skin. Then they would cut this and piece the skin together to

create clothing. Both men and women wore moccasins made of skin. They wore necklaces made out of beads. Some of the necklaces also had elk teeth, and porcupine quills.

7.6 Ceremonial/ ritual adornment:

7.7 Sex differences in adornment: Arapahoe women wore dresses and men usually wore a breech cloth. Both were made of animal hide.

7.8 Missionary effect: Missionaries were able to convert some Arapahos to Christianity.

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment:

## **8. Kinship system**

8.1 Sibling classification system:

8.2 Sororate, levirate:

## **9. Other interesting facts:**

1. Arapahos kept the umbilical cords of a baby. They were dried out and then usually kept near the child until reaching maturity.

From my research I believe the Arapahos were true hunter-gatherers. Although they did gather in winter camps and stay in one spot for a period of time I think they were still hunter gatherers because in the spring time they would pack up and begin to buffalo hunt. They would pack up their villages and follow the buffalo herds throughout the spring and summer times. Also there was no evidence of crops. They received most of their carbohydrates from foraging roots, seeds, and fruits. I believe they were not herders because they did not keep livestock. They did eventually receive horses from whites but they were mainly used for travel and war.

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