

# Tasunka

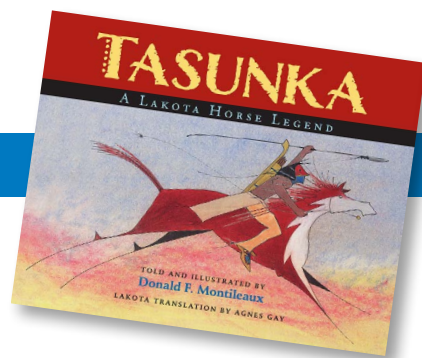
## A LAKOTA HORSE LEGEND

### A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

**Themes:** American Indian Culture, Legends, Plains, Hunting

**Book Brief:** A young warrior sets out on a search for food and instead discovers a creature called horse (Tasunka).

**Author and Illustrator:**  
Donald F. Montileaux



### TIME TO READ!



**Before reading, make predictions:** What do you think the hunter on the cover is looking for? What do you think the word Tasunka means? Why would a horse be important to the Lakota people?

**While reading, make connections:** Does this story remind you of other American Indian stories you have read or heard? Does it remind you of any other stories or legends you know?

**After reading, ask questions:**

- ◆ Why do you think the young man was hunting alone?
- ◆ Why would he need to disguise himself?
- ◆ What types of things do you look for to track something?
- ◆ What was the fire he mentioned coming from the horses?
- ◆ How was this story passed down to other generations?
- ◆ What lesson did you learn from this story?

### RELATED ACTIVITIES

#### WASNA—FOOD FOR THE HUNTER

Ingredients: 1 cup beef jerky, 1/2 cup cranberries, 3 Tbsp. shortening

Shred beef jerky in a food processor. Add in cranberries and mix together until ingredients are a fine consistency. By hand, mix in the shortening and form into patties. Place in refrigerator. When set, enjoy this modern version of the homemade energy bar that the Lakota hunters would take with them while out searching for bison.

#### LEDGER ART

Materials: used paper, crayons, pencils

Ledger art got its name from American Indians using paper from ledger books to make their drawings.

Many were fine artists and used their talent to show traditions and their meanings through pictures and symbols. What kinds of paper can you upcycle and use for art? Use pictures and symbols to tell a story about one of your favorite family or community traditions.

#### CREATIVE CAMOUFLAGE

Materials: paper plate, markers, scrap paper, string, scissors, glue

The hunter wore a wolf skin to hide his identity and help him hunt. What animal would you disguise yourself as to blend in and observe what is around you? Create a mask of an animal of your choice. Be sure to include features that make your mask look real! Can you fool anyone?

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

#### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT AMERICAN INDIAN LEGENDS

*Tatanka and the Lakota People: A Creation Story*, Donald F. Montileaux (2009), *Crazy Horse's Vision*, Joseph Bruchac (2002), *Gift Horse: A Lakota Story*, S.D. Nelson (1999).



Reading Is Fundamental