



"The Smoke Signal"

Frederic Remington painted "The Smoke Signal" in 1905. It is now in the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, Texas. Remington is depicting a way that the Plains Indians communicated over long or short distances. The signals of puffs of smoke could be seen for hundreds of miles, and were sometimes faster in getting their message across than the modern technology of the time, the telegraph. The smoke signals were used to send messages usually about hunting or war. The senders might relay where they were camping or the location of enemies. Remington painted two of the Native Americans looking far into the distance while the third sends the message. The clearness of the day is emphasized by the details of the painting, including the saddle and the features of the men and the horses. A detail from this painting, showing the two Native Americans signaling, was used by the United States Post Office in 1961 on a stamp celebrating the 100th anniversary of Remington's birth.

Using the image and your knowledge of geography, answer the following questions:

WorldView Software: World Geography

ART: Question 1

What are the Native Americans doing in the painting?

Question 2

Why were smoke signals a good way to send messages from one group to another?

Question 3

What are some problems in using smoke signals to send messages from one group to another?

Question 4

What fuel do you think the Native Americans used for the fire?

Question 5

What can you tell from the painting about the climate of the area?