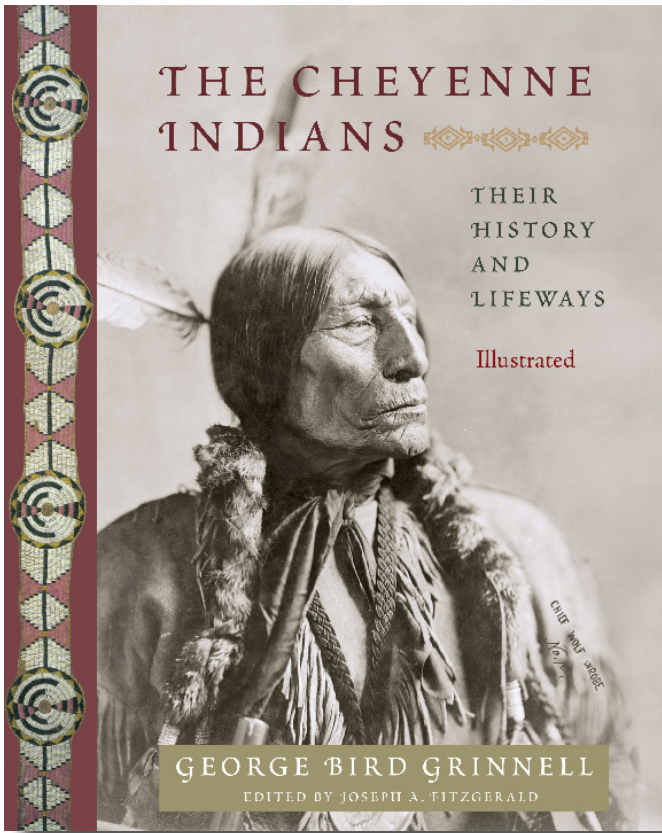


THE CHEYENNE INDIANS — WISDOM TALES DISCUSSION GUIDE



Gold Independent Publishers Association Book Awards “Culture” and for “Political Science/History”
Winner of the Benjamin Franklin Silver Award for “Interior Design, 3 or More Color” and “Multicultural”

“Drawing upon the thoughts and actions of individual Cheyennes, Grinnell manages to reconstruct a highly readable account of their culture.”

—*Journal of the American Academy of Religion*



“The value of such a work as Mr. Grinnell has produced can hardly be overstated.”

—*The New York Times*

Wisdom Tales
Stories from Around the World

SUMMARY

- A classic work on the Cheyenne Indians newly edited and adapted for the classroom
- The original 2 volume 800-page classic work now available in an abridged 240 page illustrated edition
- Including more than 130 color and sepia photos showing all aspects of Cheyenne Indian life
- Written by George Bird Grinnell, the renowned historian, naturalist, explorer, and conservationist who helped establish Yellowstone Park and Glacier National Park
- With additional selections from 3 articles previously unpublished in book form

ABOUT THE BOOK

This beautiful book takes George Bird Grinnell’s classic work on the Cheyenne Indians and trims it into 240 fully-illustrated pages of his most essential writings. Grinnell was the long-time editor of *Field & Stream* magazine and helped to establish both the Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks. During his career he documented several tribes of the old West, including this vivid account of the last of the Cheyenne Indians, who were forced to live out their lives as nomads. It features a new historical introduction by the editor, Joseph A. Fitzgerald, detailing the importance of Grinnell’s work in the preservation of traditional Native American wisdom and culture, along with 130 illustrated photos of the people, lifeways, and artwork of the Cheyenne Indians.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

George Bird Grinnell was a historian, naturalist, explorer, sportsman, and conservationist. He co-founded the first Audubon Society, and along with Teddy Roosevelt, co-founded the Boone and Crockett Club. His adamant conservationist efforts led to the survival of the wild buffalo in Yellowstone National Park. Grinnell also wrote several landmark books on the Pawnee, Blackfoot, and Cheyenne.

ABOUT THE EDITOR

Joseph A. Fitzgerald is the editor of nine books, which have won numerous awards, including the prestigious Benjamin Franklin Award.

\$29.95, 240pp, paperback, 8x10,
Includes 130 color and sepia illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-933316-60-4,
Lexile® measure—1230L, Grade 11 and up

THE CHEYENNE INDIANS — WISDOM TALES DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. The Cheyenne considered it honorable to raid an enemy's camp and steal their horses. What are some equivalents of this activity today, and would you consider these acts as honorable?
2. The author makes the case that with the pre-reservation Cheyenne, the division of labor between men and women was, in effect, "separate but equal." This contrasts with the general approach today, which tends to see the biological differences between men and women as largely irrelevant to their occupations. Does the approach taken by the Cheyenne make sense in its context? Is there any logic behind it that we can and should apply to our present circumstances?
3. Tennyson described nature as "red in tooth and claw" and the life of the Cheyenne, who were hunters and warriors, was certainly bloody in various respects that might shock us today. Were the Cheyenne therefore closer to nature than we are? Is this a good thing?
4. The author claims that the Cheyenne were democratic because they elected their chiefs, and because the power of the chiefs was limited by public opinion. Does the Cheyenne social structure seem democratic to you? Does "democratic" mean "good," now or then?
5. Who is more "free," a citizen of the contemporary United States, or a member of the pre-reservation Cheyenne tribe?
6. Cheyenne healing involved both natural and supernatural remedies, that is, it involved administering things like roots and herbs along with offering prayers and invoking the aid of spirits. If you had been among the European or American settlers who came into contact with the Cheyenne during their pre-reservation days, would you have told them that these supernatural remedies are mere superstitions? Or would you have been open to believe that there is something real behind their beliefs? If not, why not?
7. It was not common, but some Cheyenne men had multiple wives. Why do you they suppose they did this? Do you think this was a good arrangement for the husband and for the wives? How does the Cheyenne practice relate to the current notion of "marriage equality," which rejects the idea that marriage = 1 man + 1 woman? Are all forms of unions equally valid?
8. To take captives in war, to steal the property of others, and to practice polygamy are immoral acts which should be illegal—agree or disagree? What does the answer to this question tell us about the historical conflict between the Cheyenne (and other Indian tribes) with the European and American settlers? The author does not address this, but what did the Europeans and Americans do that the Cheyenne would have considered immoral?
9. A Cheyenne boy or girl generally grew up surrounded by aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents. What do you suppose that this meant for them? Does it sound like a good thing, or does it sound suffocating?
10. Would you rather be 1) where and who you are today, or 2) a Cheyenne living in the Great Plains? Try to give three reasons why.

