

# Winter Counts - Materials / Instructions

## Materials

- Brown Paper Bags (*Half bags will work*)
- “Animal Skin” Stencil
- Buckets,  $\frac{3}{4}$  filled with water (*Sinks work well too*)
- Permanent Markers

## Instruction

Step 1: Disassemble paper bag

Attempt to separate glued seams  
If needed, cut into halves

\*This simulates the raw processing stage of the buffalo skin

Step 2: Crumple the bag up into a ball small enough to fit into the bucket

Take out of water  
Be careful there will be dripping  
Repeat Step 2 again

Step 3: Find a flat surface for the “skin”, lay it out so that it can dry

This may take anywhere from 35-85 minutes

Step 4: Once the “skin” is dry, trace animal skin stencil and trace with pencil

For larger groups, supply two stencils

Step 5: Cut out the “skin”

\*Steps 2-5 simulate the tanning process of the buffalo skin

Step 6: Create Winter Count Timeline

Step 7: Pencil out the events from the Winter Count Timeline

Focus on orientation and space usage

Step 8: Permanent Marker over pencil tracings

Step 9: Complete Introduction Card

Name, Introduction for the reader, insights to author, signature

Step 10: Mount to black construction paper