



Buffalo Dance



Physical activity/physical literacy links: Creativity and self-expression; developing confidence; developing competence.

Language/literacy links: Supporting activity with talk and sign (e.g. imitation, story-telling)

Website Links: binged.it/2IPPMB3

Where: Indoors or outdoors

Storytime

- ❖ Buffalo were native to the prairies and continue to have a strong identity in Saskatchewan. They were once the main source of food for First Nation's people and were an important part of the economic relationship between Metis people who were engaging in the fur trade with early settlers. Their importance to Indigenous people made them the center of their life on the prairies. Their hides provided shelter as they were made into tipis which were the main dwelling among the bands of Indigenous people living on the prairie. The warmth of the hides was prized and used as blankets, coats and boots, saving the people both young and old from the harsh prairie winters. The horns, bones and bladders provided spoons, tools and containers for carrying water. The tons of meat of the buffalo fed many, many people. When a buffalo hunt was successful, there was sure to be a feast. Along with a feast, as befits a celebration, there was sure to be singing and dancing.



Let's Dance!

- ❖ This activity celebrates the buffalo and his free spirit and the many essential things he provided to the indigenous people on the prairies.
- ❖ Children dance to a marching beat. With fingers held to their foreheads like the horns of the buffalo.
- ❖ Buffalos all dance in one circular direction clockwise, sometimes stamping their feet or shaking their shaggy heads.