Vocabulary for Native American Unit

**Amulet**
an object worn, especially around the neck, as a charm against evil or injury; good luck charm

There came a day when Mattak went on a hunt and forgot his lucky amulet, a bit of ivory carved like a raven's foot.

**Amulet**
these are personal charms which are worn to ward off evil spirits or to ensure good personal qualities

other are two main kinds of amulets, those worn from birth and those when out hunting

Inuit amulet examples are:
- fur or claws; encourage strength or hunting skill
- small carved animals; help with a successful hunt
- a piece of Salmon skin; makes a girl a good seamstress
- an owls claw; gives a boy strong fists

**Igloo**
an Inuit or Eskimo dwelling, especially a dome-shaped winter dwelling built of blocks of packed snow

Permanent home were made of stone and earth. They were built partially underground. Whale ribs sometimes supported the roof. Temporary winter hunting lodges called igloos were made from snow and ice. The Inuit formed a circular foundation of ice blocks. They stacked smaller blocks to create a dome at the top. A small hole was left for ventilation. Gaps in the ice blocks were filled with soft snow and the inside was lined with furs.

Using the snow knife she had brought with her, Sedna showed her husband how to carve out heavy blocks of ice and build a proper igloo.

**Plank**
a heavy thick board, flat timber, piece of wood

Most villages consisted of large rectangular houses. Each housed 30 to 40 people. They were made by covering large beams with planked sides gabled in the north. The posts were often decorated with carved figures. The earth floors were divided by woven mats into family units. Several families lived in one of these large structures. Each family was allowed a space about the size of a barn stall. Each family had its own fire, but cook fires in the center of the building were shared. Farther south the homes had low conical roofs. In the north sweat houses were built for both men and women, and for men only in the south. Large totem poles carved from tree trunks stood in front of the homes. The totem poles showed the titles of the head of the household.
roam

to move about without purpose or plan; wander, stray

He told her that he was the leader of all the wild horses who roamed the hills

tepee [tipi]
to build the teepee the women took long poles and stuck them in the ground in the form of a circle --

They leaned the poles together at the top. The poles were fastened with hides. The poles were covered with buffalo hides. Two longer poles were attached to the top corners. The were used to remove the smoke from the fire. The teepee opening always faced east. The outside of the teepee was decorated with paintings of animals, stars, or other objects. The Plains Indians had little furniture. Their beds were made from buffalo robes, skins with the hair left on. They also had back rests. Food, clothes, and belongings were stored in parfleches. A parfleche was a strong pouch made of buffalo hide.

parfleche

an untanned animal hide soaked in lye and water to remove the hair and then dried on a stretcher; used by the Plains Indians to carry their possessions; a folded bag used to carry things, made from the hide of an animal

Page 6 - When she finished the garment, she tied all the pieces together in a parfleche decorated to match.

Page 8 She bundled clothing for herself around her quilling needles and filled her parfleche with food stores she'd been putting aside.

*Quillworker* Page 14 Quillworker untied the parfleches from the travois and sent the dogs back to her mother.

quill

the hollow stemlike main shaft of a feather; One of the sharp hollow spines of a porcupine or hedgehog

*Quillworker*

Page 6 - The design was magnificent, with each color of quills radiating from another.

quillwork

a form of embroidery using porcupine quills; the quills were used to decorate clothing, pouches and birch bark boxes and baskets

**scout** - to spy on or explore carefully in order to obtain information

Page 14 - Grandfather chose six braves to be scouts.
Buckskin
a soft strong leather, usually yellowish or grayish in color, made of deerskin

"Find a buckskin as white as this," she told him. Little Gopher looked at the white buckskin and on it he saw colors as bright and beautiful as those made by the setting sun. Many months ago, he had found his pure white buckskin, but it remained empty because he could not find the colors of the sunset. Tomorrow take the white buckskin and go to the place where you watch the sun in the evening. Little Gopher gazed at the white buckskin and he was happy.

Pueblo
the communal dwelling of an Indian village of Arizona, New Mexico, and neighboring areas consisting of flat-roofed stone or adobe houses in groups sometimes several stories high

Hogan
a Navajo Indian dwelling usually made of logs and mud with a door traditionally facing east

loom
a tool used for making thread or yarn into cloth by weaving strands together at right angles; a frame on which weaving is done

chickee
a Seminole dwelling usually made of logs and grass with open sides and a raised floor

dreamcatcher
a Native American craftwork consisting of a small hoop covered with string, yarn, or horsehair mesh and decorated with feathers and beads and believed to give its owner good dreams.

Background Information
The Algonquian Indians hung dreamcatchers from cradleboards to protect their babies. They believed that the dreamcatcher would catch bad dreams and allow good dreams to pass through the web.
longhouse

a long communal dwelling, especially of the Iroquois, typically built of poles and bark and having a central corridor with family compartments on either side -- The longhouse was large enough to hold a family of 30 to 60 people. It could be 25 to 150 feet long. The longhouse was built by driving two rows of poles into the ground in zigzag lines ten or twelve feet apart. The poles were tied together at the top. Other poles were fastened across them. Next slabs of bark were tied to cover the poles. An open space was left at the top for smoke to escape. A door was built at the end of the longhouse. The door was covered with a curtain made from animal skins. Inside the longhouse a wide path ran though the center. Each family had a space about six by nine feet for a personal area. The family space was separated from the rest on the longhouse by leather curtains. In the personal space a seat was built against the wall. Clothes and tools were stored under the seat. The seat was also used as a bed. The bed was covered with corn husk mats and then skins and furs.

portrait

a likeness of a person, especially one showing the face, that is created by a painter or photographer

While she was in London, Pocahontas' portrait was painted by an artist.

toil

to labor continuously; work strenuously

When work and toil are done,
Gather all together,
Turn three worlds into one.

Find six words that mean the same as toil.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>labor</th>
<th>ease</th>
<th>work</th>
<th>be lazy</th>
<th>exertion</th>
<th>nine-to-five</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>relax</td>
<td>idle</td>
<td>plug away</td>
<td>slave</td>
<td>dawdle</td>
<td>putter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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