

## **Information about Artifact Images**

Unit: Politics & Diplomacy (Elementary and Middle School)

From Gilman's *Lewis and Clark: Across the Divide*, Chapters 2 and 9

### **Artifact Image A**

Sketch of Shoshone pipe by Meriwether Lewis in September 1805.

### **Artifact Image B**

#### **Pipe tomahawk of Meriwether Lewis, 1800-1809**

The pipe tomahawk combined one emblem from each culture: the Indian pipe of peace and the European ax of war. It symbolized the choice that underlay every meeting of the two. An artifact unique to the American frontier, the pipe tomahawk was not used by either culture prior to 1700 but was adopted by soldiers of both during the eighteenth century. Decorated ones like this were “presentation tomahawks” reserved for diplomatic gifts and high-status individuals.

This is almost certainly the pipe tomahawk Lewis had with him at his death in 1809, described in documents as “One tomahawk...handsomely mounted.” Both officers and men carried pipe tomahawks on the expedition, but it is not known if Lewis owned this one at the time.

### **Artifact Image C**

#### **Calumet pipe, 1780-1850**

This pipe may have been given to Lewis and Clark as the record of a sacred commitment of brotherhood they had undertaken by smoking it. At least twice tribes presented a pipe to them at the end of a ceremony so they would never forget. No memory survives of which tribe this pipe is from or what promise it once witnessed.

Clark wrote that Teton pipes were “of red earth...the stem is of ash highly decorated with feathers, hair, porcupine quills, and about 4 or three feet long.” The calumet was the oldest and most symbolic style of pipe used in North America. The classic form had a round stem wrapped with ornaments and a “fan” of feathers hanging from it. It had been used to mediate relations with Euro-Americans since at least the 1670s.

### **Artifact Image D**

#### **Pipe tamper, 1800s**

In a pipe ceremony, it was improper to fill the bowl with the fingers; the tobacco was pressed in with a tamper. Often, each pinch of tobacco was offered to a part of creation—the wingeds, the four-legged peoples, the growing peoples, the water, the thunder beings. When every form of creation was mentioned, the pipe was seen as holding in it the entire universe.

### **Artifact Image E**

#### **Bear effigy pipe**

To Plains Indians, the bear embodied terrible anger but also deep wisdom about curing. "We consider the bear as chief of all the animals in regard to herb medicine," said the Lakota Two Shields. "If a man dreams of a bear he will be expert in the use of herbs for curing illness." The carving on this pipe probably represents the bear's role as teacher and transmitter of power. At least three pipe bowls of this design were collected by non-Indians: Duke Paul of Wurtemberg, George Catlin, and Army general Stephen Watts Kearny, who acquired this one. All three of these men were associated with Clark and his museum of Indian artifacts. The tribal identifications of the pipes were Pawnee, Osage, and Sioux, but it is likely that all are by the same artist, who was most likely Pawnee.