Josslyn Ryan 09/18/18

Hist 1120

**Reading Log #1**

**“The Buffalo Jump” in *Imagining Head-Smashed-In: Aboriginal Buffalo Hunting on the Northern Plains.***

In the first chapter of *Imagining Head-Smashed-In: Aboriginal Buffalo Hunting on the Northern Plains,* Jack Brink discusses the powerful significance of the famous Head-Smashed-In buffalo jump. Archaic sites have brought the history of the Plains Indians back to life, giving us insight to their culture, what humans were (and are) capable of, and societies view on the event. [[1]](#footnote-1)

The origin of the name ‘head-smashed-in’ came from an indigenous story of a boy losing his life to experience the buffalo jump, and the name has stuck.[[2]](#footnote-2) This proves the power of the story-telling in indigenous culture, as well as how exciting and significant this event must have been for one to lose his life over.

Archaeology has “dug up” an insight to the Plains Indians culture.[[3]](#footnote-3) If we imagine the whirlwind of rushing herds and tribes, it gives us insight into the great teamwork it must have taken for the buffalo jump to be a success.[[4]](#footnote-4) This teamwork not only provided the tribes with enough goods for months, but resulted in a significant social aspect among multiple tribes.[[5]](#footnote-5)

Alexander Henry, an observer of Native culture, went as far to say that this hunting method was of “sheer laziness.”[[6]](#footnote-6) However, it took “thousands of years of passed down tribal knowledge” to perfect this method, and most, (if not all), would say it is anything but laziness.[[7]](#footnote-7)

Bibliography

Jack Brink, “The Buffalo Jump” in *Imagining Head-Smashed-In.: Aboriginal Buffalo Hunting on the Northern Plains.* (Edmonton: AU Press, 2008), 1-26. <https://ebookcentral-proquest-> com.ezproxy.tru.ca/lib/trulibrary- ebooks/reader.action?docID=617516&query=&ppg=38

1. Jack Brink, “The Buffalo Jump” in *Imagining Head-Smashed-In.: Aboriginal Buffalo Hunting on the Northern Plains.* (Edmonton: AU Press, 2008), 1-26. https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.ezproxy.tru.ca/lib/trulibrary-ebooks/reader.action?docID=617516&query=&ppg=38 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Brink. “The Buffalo Jump” 24-25. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Brink. “The Buffalo Jump” 1-26. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Brink. “The Buffalo Jump” 9. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Brink. “The Buffalo Jump” 9. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Brink. “The Buffalo Jump” 13. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Brink. “The Buffalo Jump” 13. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)