Station N°7: Warfare

Bravery was extremely important to Indians. Every man wanted an opportunity to prove his bravery. And each tribe expected loyalty and bravery from its members.

The greatest bravery during a battle was to touch the enemy with bare hands or with a special stick (called *coup stick*). Acts of bravery were more important that actually killing someone!

A warrior got "few points" for killing a man from a distance with his bow and arrow, but he got even more points for getting close enough to tap him with his **coup stick**. They marked their winnings with feather or notches on a stick that were shown to all tribe members.

CAUSES OF WAR: Indians often liked to fight wars because wars gave them a chance to win glory. The most common reason of war was desire for horses. Capturing horses from an enemy was an act of bravery. They also fought for hunting lands or because of an insult. For the war they always prepared and painted the horses and themselves and made rituals, like dancing with the medicine man, who gave them spiritual advice.

They preferred to surprise the enemy with an unexpected attack. They were very brave and cunning. In average 20-30 men attacked and few were killed. Women rarely took part in attacking.

Death of the enemies often led to **scalping**. The skin and hair from the top of a head were removed. They believed that without a scalp you could not enter the eternal after-life. So they removed scalps to have fewer enemies in the after-life. For them, a scalp was a trophy and a cause of celebration.

medicine man

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Put the words from the box into the right category.

medicine man spiritual advice, hunting territory, bravery, loyalty, touching the enemy with bare hands, painting horses, insults, capturing horses, scalping, killing the enemy with bow and arrow, tap the enemy with coup stick, ritual dance of war

good warrior	acts of bravery	preparation for war	causes of war