Chapter – Native Americans, Section – Great Plains Virginia Fitzgerald

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| Headings/Questions | Paragraph Main Ideas and Details | Additions / Corrections |
| The environment of the region and how the people used it | * Grassland
	+ Broken by
		- Ranges of hills
		- Wooded river valleys
	+ East – tall grass prairies
	+ West – dry, short grass prairie
* Animal life
	+ Valleys and hills - Deer, elk, bear, antelope, beaver
	+ Mountains on western edge – mountain sheep
	+ Grasslands – bison
		- More than 60 million
		- Provided people with – meat, fat for cooking, hides for house-covers and coats, bones and horns for tools, stomachs for pouches and cooking devices, tails for fly swatters
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| Subsistence Lifestyle | * In open grasslands – few groups as life difficult
	+ Grass roots – too tough and thick to dig through
	+ Winter – winds, snowstorms
	+ Summer – intense heat
	+ Hunting buffalo difficult without horse
		- Only dogs to carry meat, hides, tools, shelter for hunt
* Lush river-bottoms
	+ Farming possible
	+ Men could leave village to hunt bison deer, elk, turkey, prairie chicken
	+ Women can leave to gather
* All 3 types – hunter-gatherer, mix, farming
 | Subsistence – a live-style that produces enough just for oneself and one’s family, not enough to sell (opp. Commercial) |
| Nomadic Groups | * Had common characteristics once all got horses
* Life based on bison
* Dwelling - portable skin tipis
* Clothing - light, durable made from buffalo hide
* Military society
* Social Order - Clans of either male or female descent
* Political organization –single cohesive tribe
	+ Come together in winter
	+ Live individually in summer
* Major religious ceremony – Sun Dance
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| Farming Groups | * Dwellings
	+ Large, earth-covered lodges
	+ Built into bluffs
	+ Overlook river bottom
	+ Usu. Where two rivers joined
* Mandan
	+ Towns – well planned
		- Streets
		- Central plaza – for ceremonies, games
	+ Earthen lodges
		- 40-80 ft. around
		- Four central posts and continuous cross beams
		- Covered in thick mats
		- Of willow branches
		- Final layer of thick dirt
		- Flat roofs – for drying, also porches for hot evening
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| Political Organization | * Nomadic groups
	+ Leader – male with a particular trait that is valuable
		- strong personality
		- hunting skill
		- leadership skill
		- organizational skill
		- wise decisions
	+ decision-makers with final say - older women
		- strength of character
		- someone families can depend on
	+ women
		- daily leaders when men away hunting
		- have final say in family matters
* Farming
	+ Clans
	+ Town councils –
		- representatives from each clan
		- Chaired by men of clans that traditionally led
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| Religious Practices | * Guardian Spirits
	+ Supernatural beings
	+ Individuals adopted that spirits symbols, songs, prayers for protection from evil and death
		- Appeared to individual on a vision quest
		- Alone and Far from home
		- Fasted and prayed until receive spirit
* Shamans
* Medicine men
	+ Connection between human and spiritual world
	+ Cure illness – by driving away malevolent spirits
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