

January 15, 1889

We've explored all day, and we've worked a lot, but we couldn't believe it - we were over 80 gold nuggets! We were so surprised. We've traveled very far, and we've learned a lot. It looks like Cowboy Joe was the one who knew all about it. First, we were in the Plains, and suddenly, we found something very mysterious. It looked like a tipi, but Cowboy Joe told Sunflower Sadie that it was a wickiup. He told Sunflower Sadie that these were a type of house which the Utes lived in. It was made of branches and leaves. The smaller ones were made from ten branches, and the bigger one was made of twenty branches. Diamond Dan and Sunflower Sadie were confused about the Utes. Cowboy Joe told them that they were the ones who lived here in the past. He first told us that the Utes sometimes made a special treat, called a pemmican. It was made from ground dried meat and mixed with melted fat and turned into small cakes.

Second, he told us that the Utes used to wear plain buckskin clothing, until they had contact with the plain indians. Then they started decorating their clothing with beads. Third, he told us that the name "Ute" meant "High Land" or "Land of the Sun". We walked around, and we were so surprised with everything. As we walked by some bones, Cowboy Joe told us that the Comanche Indians, another tribe, used to trade or kidnap children, so that they could work in their area to care for the house and horses. But, once the Ute Children knew how to care for the horses, they would capture and kidnap the Comanche horses, and then return to their homes.

After a bit, we left the site, and we were satisfied and surprised by the Utes. And we returned to exploring. After all, we had a very good day.