

History Mystery: These educational activity kits were funded through a grant from the Bureau of Land Management, Billings Curation Center, and the Western Heritage Center in Billings. These are the first two trunks in a planned series of five. Borrow these kits from the Montana Historical Society.

The Western Heritage Center (contact Joyce Jensen, 406-256-6809, ext. 130) or the BLM (contact David K. Wade at 406-896-5213).

- **History Mystery I: Sacrifice Cliff** – This kit centers on local legends associated with the well known landmark near Billings and engages students in an interactive research exercise that allows them to learn through their own investigations. It tells story of a band of Crow Indians who lived in the Billings area in the late 1800s; the devastation effects of small pox, brought to the area by western immigrants; and the sacrifice warriors made to protect the band from the disease. While many versions of the story abound, it is generally believed that the brave Crow warriors offered their lives in sacrifice by flinging themselves from a cliff to their deaths. Many questions remain. Which version of the story is correct? How many warriors were involved? When did the sacrifice take place? Did the warriors perish in vain? Is the local landmark known as Sacrifice Cliff accurately named or was another cliff the site of the sacrifice?

This educational resource kit gives students an opportunity to examine historical evidence in the context of an actual historical mystery. Through this exercise, students learn the importance of research, history, and preservation, and discover that there are many easy-to-find answers to historical questions. Developed for grades 7-8.

- **History Mystery II: Pryor Mountain Wild Horses** – This kit consists of a king-sized board-style game that takes players through a year in the life of a wild horse in the Pryor Mountains. It explores the complex issues surrounding the horses' environment, behavior, management, and history, and allows players to reach their own conclusions.

This educational resource kit provides students with multiple perspectives on a complex issue. The kit includes the resources and tools needed to understand the environment, behavior, management and history of the Pryor Mountains wild horses and allows students to learn through their own investigations. Students will “travel” around the horse range gathering facts about this unique herd of wild horses. The first team to gather enough facts to answer WHO, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, and HOW may then write their own interpretive sign and win the game. Developed for grades 7-8.