

EXTRA EXTRA!

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Indigenous nature preservation scheme bears fruit

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The Blackfeet Nation is found in a rugged landscape in Montana. While rich in resources, the remote location has made food access a challenge there.

Only four grocery stores serve the entire area. Fresh, healthy produce and meat options are often limited at these stores, and prices are higher than in neighbouring communities, making access difficult for low-income families.

Meanwhile, incidents of preventable health issues such as diabetes, heart disease and kidney cancer have increased. In addition, local populations have lost touch with a cultural heritage based on their landscape.

For the Blackfeet, bison are as much a source of food as they are a part of their cultural identity. The group is still dealing with the loss of these animals from the area 200 years ago.

Recognising these problems, the tribal government, a variety of non-profits and dedicated community members decided to take action. In 2016, it established a scheme to increase food independence in the local area.

Bison and various berries make up the bulk of the traditional diet, along with wild onions, wild carrots and some wild potatoes. The scheme has been investigating how locals react to the reintroduction of traditional foods.

In addition, Blackfeet Community College (BCC) has started providing students with the tools to explore traditional practices to help make food sovereignty a reality on the Blackfeet reservation.

Students from the college have also been developing techniques to help small farmers grow more crops in a climate with a very short growing season.

“Education is so powerful. It’s what we need, to have this programming that heals us,” said Helen Augere Carlson, a director at BCC.

Challenges persist, and there isn’t a simple solution to overcoming the centuries of trauma.

But the Blackfeet Nation has managed to work proactively, and from a position of strength, to find long-term, sustainable solutions.

TRUE OR FALSE?

Not all news is based on truth. Do you think this story is based on true or false news?

Indigenous people share the same histories, culture and traditions.



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Watch [this report](#) on indigenous cultures in Australia.

This worksheet is available weekly Tuesday at 6:30am London time from <https://theday.co.uk/resources/news-detectives>.
For any feedback or help please contact buildthechange@theday.co.uk. Thank you.

Answer to Find the truth. False! There are hundreds of different indigenous groups, each with their own traditions. [Read more here.](#)



CHECK YOUR FACTS

1

WHAT
is threatening
the Blackfeet?

ANSWER:
Food
insecurity

WHO
works at the
Community
College?

ANSWER:
Helen Carlson

WHERE
are the
Blackfeet
found?

ANSWER:
Montana,
USA

WHEN
did the new
initiative
start?

ANSWER:
2016

WHY
did food
insecurity
grow?

ANSWER:
Declining bison
populations

HOW
is the BCC
bringing
change?

ANSWER:
Educating students
to raise bison and
grow berries

