

# The Shaman

## 1 **The Shaman and Native American Indian beliefs**

The Shaman helped and advised the members of the tribe. He was the keeper of myth, tradition and tribal wisdom. The Shaman had spiritual healing powers and could treat sickness caused by evil



5 spirits – the Europeans called him 'Medicine Man'.

The Shaman had the ability to perform various forms of prophecy.

The Shaman possessed the ability to communicate with the spirit world, leave his body and enter the supernatural world to search for answers. Some spirits were good and helped men who pleased them. The bad spirits caused trouble,

10 suffering, sickness and death. If a Shaman had control over the spirits, he became extremely powerful.

### **Shaman attributes**

A shaman was equipped with a number of objects that helped him to communicate with spirits in other worlds.

15 They used dances, gestures and sounds as the symbolic powers of Shaman to enter the spirit world.

A Shaman also wore ceremonial clothes and carried sacred objects such as rattles and drums to incarnate the spirits of nature and amplify their power.

*Adapted from <https://www.warpaths2peacepipes.com/native-american-culture/shaman.htm>*

*Advice : conseiller ; wisdom : sagesse ; Heal : soigner ; sickness : maladie ; rattle : hochet; drum : tambour*

## PART 1 : TEXT READING : COMPREHENSION

**Exercise 1** : Read the part entitled *The Shaman and Native American Indian beliefs* and answer the questions:

- Who did the Shaman help ? He helped .....
- Why is he called the Medicine Man ? Because he could .....
- What did good spirits do ? They helped .....
- Who caused trouble, suffering, sickness, death and disease ?  
..... caused trouble, suffering, sickness and death. If a Shaman had control over the spirits, he became extremely powerful.

**Exercise 2** : Read the part entitled *Shaman attributes* and tick what a Shaman could do to enter the spirit world :

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> he could dance                    | <input type="checkbox"/> he could used sacred objects             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> he could sing                     | <input type="checkbox"/> he could drink potions                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> he could use his mobile phone     | <input type="checkbox"/> he could wear ceremonial clothes         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> he could give food to the spirits | <input type="checkbox"/> he could sacrifice a member of the tribe |

**Exercise 3** : Read the last paragraph. What are the Shaman's attributes ?



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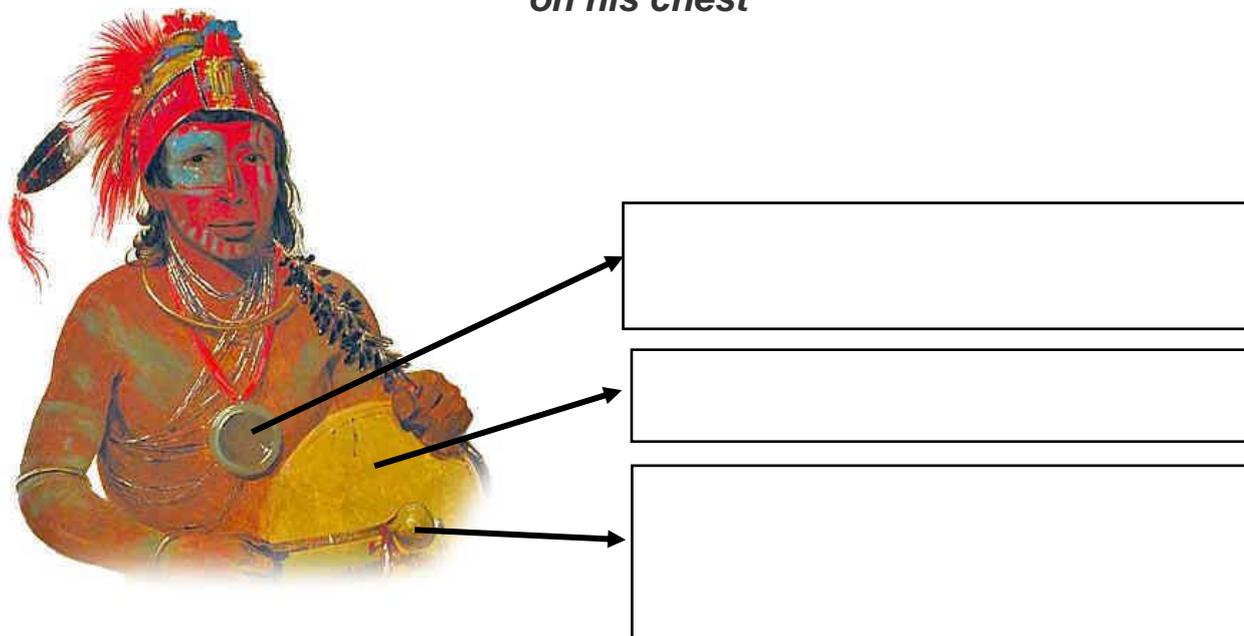
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**PART 2 : PAINTING READING : ANALYSIS**

**Painting #1 : Dakota Sioux Shaman or Medicine Man by George Catlin (1796-1872)**

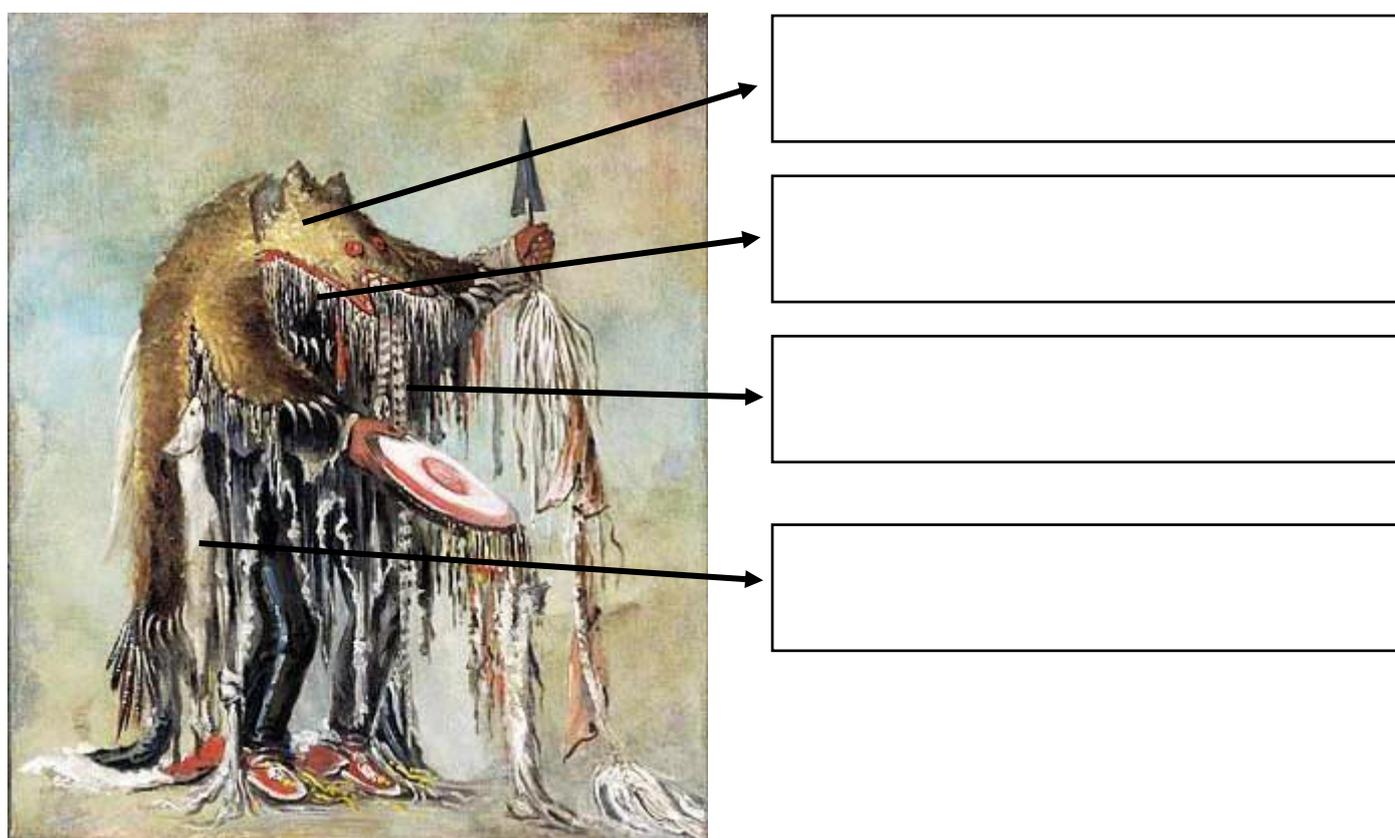
**Fill the labels with these expressions :**

*a medicine drum of deer-skins / rattle made of antelope's hoofs / looking-glass on his chest*



**Painting #2 : Blackfoot Shaman as a 'Skinwalker'**

**Fill the labels with these expressions :** snake skin / dead animal / claws, bones teeth / grizzly bear



**PART 3 : What's a Shaman ?**

**Reorder these expressions to define what a Shaman is :**

[A Shaman is a spiritual leader] / [afflicting the community] / [including sickness.] /  
[who enters supernatural realms] / [when the tribe] / [or] / [is facing adversity] / [need  
to obtain solutions to problems]

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