

AN INDIAN METHOD FOR TANNING HIDES

1. Skin the hide. Make holes around the edges, about 7 inches apart, while the hide is still fresh.
2. Stretch hide on a frame very tightly, and scrape off all particles of flesh. Leave hide smooth and clean. Dry in the sun.
3. Scrape off the hair.
4. Sprinkle hide with melted lard. Then spread with a layer of well cooked brains.
5. Warm the hide near a fire so that the lard and brains enter the hide. Make sure the fire is not too hot.
6. Work the hide until it is easy to handle.
7. Soak in warm water saturated with soap. Rinse in clean water.
8. Hang over a medium-sized fence rail and scrape clean.
9. Roll and work the hide until dry.
10. Work soft in the smoke of a wood fire. Stretch the hide frequently while drying.
11. Work the skin again, stretching as much as possible.
(Some Indians use springs to help stretch the hides.)

This gives a soft white hide.

FOR TAN COLORED.

Build a fire in a small pit about $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep. Add decayed wood to the fire to produce heavy smoke. Hang the hide in the smoke on clean sticks. Watch carefully and turn frequently to see that the hide gets an even smoke and does not become scorched. Scrape clean with a scraper or small axe.

Mrs. Dan Wildman.