

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Handout 7A: Children's Play

**Directions:** Read the following text.

*From the Nez Perce National Historic Trail website*

### Children's Play

Nez Perce girls and boys played with toys that helped them learn how to be grown-ups. Their parents and grandparents made small baskets, pots, bows and arrows, horses, and even tipis for the children to play with. The girls often played “house” while the boys pretended to hunt.

Little girls sometimes put real puppies in toy cradleboards and carried them around while the boys pretended to hunt.

Sometimes they would make a small travois by lashing lightweight poles or branches together and strapping them to a dog. The children piled their toys on the travois and pretended they were moving camp with their horse.

Plains children enjoyed little villages of small tipis made by their parents. The girls worked around the pretend camp while the boys hunted. If the boys caught a prairie dog or squirrel or rabbit, the girls would roast it over a small fire—a little feast that delighted their parents.

*Courtesy of the U.S. Department of Agriculture*