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In his text Brink argues that it is very important to study the past and explains the role of history and archaeology in this process, reflects on creativity and courage of the Aboriginal people of the Great Plains who hunted and killed the buffalo, and writes about the meaning of buffalo hunting for those Aboriginal people.

Brink suggests that even though the past is a phenomenon which people cannot truly know about, it is still very important to learn about the past as much as possible. Firstly, the role of history and archaeology is to «breathe life into those whose voices have been stilled by time»[[1]](#footnote-1) which means that by learning the past people revive some important knowledge and bring back to life the stories of others. Secondly, exploring the past gives an opportunity to find out how people used to live centuries ago and to «connect» modern people with those from the past.

The author also states that the Aboriginal people of the Great Plains were very creative. They used a very unique way of hunting which allowed them to survive in harsh conditions. Brick says: «The lesson from this story is simple; there is practically no limit to the depth of creativity human beings have brought in order to make their world liveable»[[2]](#footnote-2), which makes this story deductive and applicable to the modern world and people as well.

Finally, Brick explains why buffalo hunting was important for Aboriginal people. It turns out that hunting for those people not only was the way to provide themselves with food, but also served as a gathering: «...Yet it bears mention that communal hunting, aside from providing critical supplies of food, also served a great number of social purposes in Plains culture. Any large-scale gatherings of dispersed groups of related people would have been precious moments in ancient times. Friends and relatives were reunited. Enemies eyed each other warily. Stories and experiences of times apart were shared. Marriages were arranged, trade goods exchanged, business conducted. Great ceremonies were held, songs sung, prayers offered»[[3]](#footnote-3). Thus the author shows that such routine as hunting had a very deep meaning for those people.

In conclusion, in «Buffalo Jump» Brink not only tells the story of Heads-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump and explains why it was important to people, but also reflects on such questions as, for example, why studying history is significant.

1. Brink, Jack. «The Buffalo Jump» in Imagining Head-Smashed-In: Aboriginal Buffalo Hunting on the Northern Plains.Edmonton: AU Press, 2008, p.6 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Brink, Jack. «The Buffalo Jump» in Imagining Head-Smashed-In: Aboriginal Buffalo Hunting on the Northern Plains.Edmonton: AU Press, 2008, p.7 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. p.9 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)