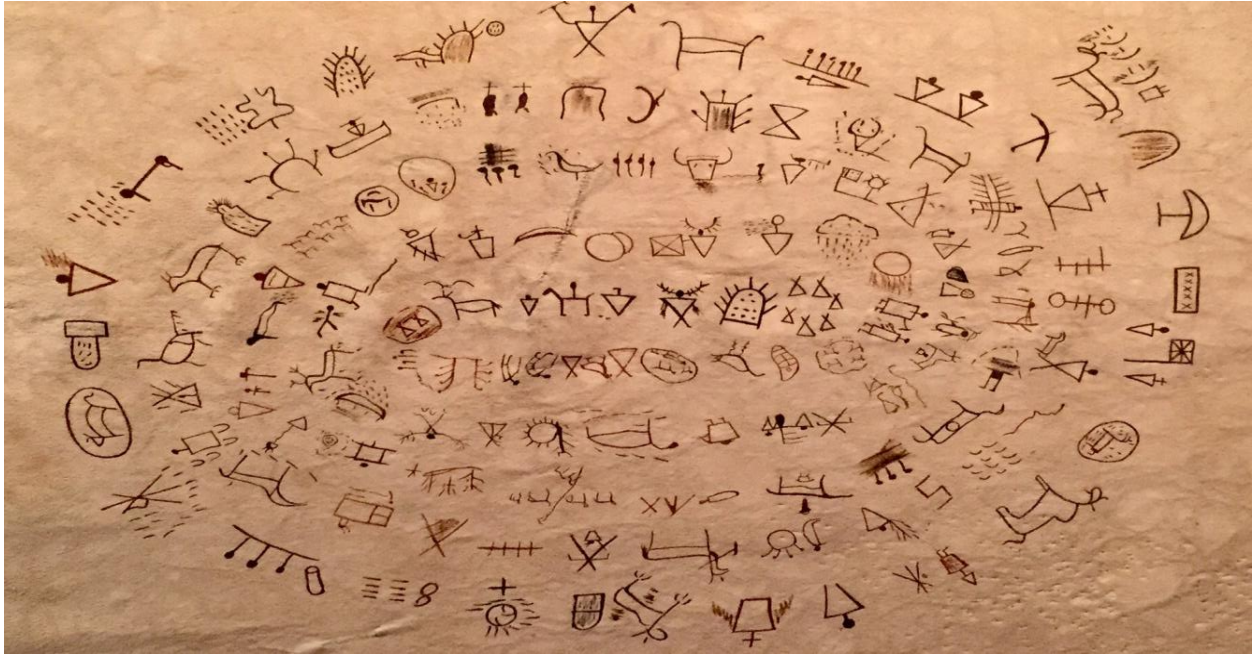


Piikani Winter Count



The above winter count was interpreted by elder Bull Plume and missionary Canon William Haynes (a missionary working with the Piikani in 1912).

It recorded some of the following events:

“Five years into the Winter Count, they tell of the berries staying on the trees all winter. The Winter Count also has years when there was hail and thunder in the winter, and the deer and buffalo got stuck in deep snow. In other years the buffalo and antelope got sick following an eclipse, and strong winds were recorded as a significant event.”

“The cycle that is recorded is very, very significant,” Big Bull said of periods of climate change. “There was no contact with anyone except our own people at that time.”

“The arrival of guns, mules, wagons, the Mounted Police, construction of the fort and the signing of treaties were recorded on the Winter Count. The presence of smallpox, yellow fever, whooping cough and other diseases are also part of the Winter Count.”

Some of the knowledge from winter counts is being used today to understand the historical weather patterns of Canada, a great tool in understanding how climate change is impacting us.