

WN Network

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Gathering and hunting. The commons

When food was free

Fabio Gomes writes: 'In my youthful days I have seen large herds of buffalo on these prairies, and elk were found in every grove, but they are here no more, they have gone towards the setting sun'. Shabonee (1775-1859), chief of the Potawatomi people, is speaking. The native North Americans who lived on the Great Plains hunted animals for food, as pictured by here in 1832 by George Catlin (1796-1872) in his 'Buffalo Chase on Prairie Bluffs'. Throughout the 19th century CE the open ranges of common land where food cost time and skill but not money, were fenced in, to grow and rear food that cost money also, and hunting became a sport. This transition has occurred at different times, everywhere in the world.



Editor's note

'Network' is edited by Fabio Gomes. Its purpose is to remind us of the contribution of the arts, including photography, to our understanding of food, nutrition, health and well-being. It presents the art without any extensive comment – though we welcome follow-up letters for publication in *Feedback*. Please send contributions to wn.network@gmail.com