



## Theme: Archeology (grades K-2)

### Sub theme: Native Americans

## Post Visit Activity 1

### Native American Clothing

#### Indian fringed vests

The clothing of the ancient Native Americans was minimal. The only reason they wore clothing ever was for warmth, and it was made of animal skins. This activity will give the children the opportunity to think through the steps that the Paleos and other Indians had to take to make sure they could be warm when the weather was not. This is a simple activity, but is very time consuming because the students will have to “weather the hides” of their grocery sack vests. The end product looks great.

#### Materials:

- Large blank brown grocery sacks
- Scissors
- Pencils
- Markers in a variety of colors
- Sample sheets with simple Native American symbols on them

For all three grades, it is necessary to have the initial “vest” cut out. To get an idea of how it will generally look, picture taking the open end of the large sack and placing it over the student’s head. The arm holes would be cut at the top on either side just under the solid base of the sack. The “front” would be cut straight up the middle all the way to the top middle portion of the base of the sack, which is where the hole for the head is cut. Once each sack is pre-cut, a student can easily slip it on just like a vest.

#### Activity:

1. Each student takes a vest and begins to draw symbols from the sample sheet all over their vest. Use markers to make it colorful.
2. Wad the vest up (fairly gently) and start to “scrunch” it. Do this over and over and over until the vest is soft like animal “leather”. It will take a while, but the look and feel is worth it.
3. Using scissors, fringe the bottom of the vest. The younger students can cut wide fringe and older can make it more delicate.