



Theme: Archaeology (Grades K-2)

Pre-Visit Activity #2

Native American Jewelry and Vests

Overview:

The Southern Paiutes are known for their many talents including basket weaving, making pottery, ornate spears, and jewelry creations. The Southern Paiutes wore little clothing due to the hot desert weather. When they did wear clothing, it was made out of animal hide (skins). They treasured precious beads and feathers and took great pride in their clothing and jewelry. Their vests were typically made out of buffalo hide or other animal skins. The beads were typically turquoise. This lesson will allow students to create their own Native American-inspired necklaces and vests.

Objectives:

- Students will learn about the Southern Paiute culture.
- Students will make their own Native American-inspired jewelry and vests.
- Students will express themselves through their art.

Native American Jewelry

Materials:

- 24" of brown yarn per student
- 10 boxes of rigatoni noodles
- Food coloring to dye the noodles, 2 boxes per color: red, blue, yellow, green, and purple
- 1 3" diameter circle, cut out of yellow poster board, for each student
- 3-4 feathers per student
- 1 paper clip per student
- Tape or glue
- Pictures of Native American designs from books or the internet (optional)

Activity:

1. Before the activity, use the food coloring to dye the rigatoni noodles; 2 boxes of noodles per color. Do this ahead of time to give the food coloring time to dry. Alternatively, colored noodles can be bought from craft stores.
2. Have students brainstorm ideas of what the Southern Paiute jewelry looked like. You may choose to reference books.
3. Give each student 24" of brown yarn and a yellow circle.

4. Have students choose 12-16 noodles in any variety of colors.
5. Have students draw a Native American-inspired design of their choice on their yellow circle, which will become the medallion on their necklace. You may choose to show students examples of Native American designs from books or the internet.
6. Using tape or glue, attach a paperclip to the back of the medallion to hang it on their necklace.
7. Have students string $\frac{1}{2}$ of the noodles on the necklace, then their medallion, and then the other $\frac{1}{2}$ of the noodles.
8. Tape 3-4 feathers onto the bottom of the medallion so that they fan out. Tie the necklace to the preferred length.

Native American Vests

Materials:

- Large blank brown paper grocery bags (1 per student)
- Scissors
- Pencils
- Markers in a variety of colors
- Pictures of Native American designs from books or the internet (optional)

Activity:

1. Before the activity, cut out the initial vests from the brown paper bags. To get an idea of how a vest will look, imagine taking the open end of a large brown paper bag 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 bag. The front would be cut straight up the middle all the way to the top middle portion of the base of the bag (where the head will go). Once each paper bag is pre-cut, a student can easily slip it on just like a vest.
2. Pass out one brown paper bag per student.
3. Pass out markers.
4. Have students draw the Native American symbols of their choice with the color of their choice onto their vest. You may choose to show examples of Native American designs from books or the internet.
5. Have the students wad up the vest (fairly gently so it does not rip) and start to "scrunch" it. Repeat until the vest is soft like animal "leather" *Note: this could take some time.

Discussion:

What did you learn about the Southern Paiutes that you never knew before? Did anyone get impatient trying to weather their leather? How did you choose your jewelry design?

Closing:

Have the students bring their necklaces and vests to the Springs Preserve when they come to take their tour! It will show their individual artistic creations and it could be another means of identifying them.

Suggested Reading:

1. ***And It Is Still That Way, Legends Told by Arizona Indian Children*** by Byrd Baylor. A collection of traditional tales from the Indians of Arizona, arranged in the categories "Why Animals Are the Way They Are," "Why Our World Is Like It Is," "Great Troubles and Great Heroes," "People Can Turn Into Anything," "Brother Coyote," and "There Is Magic All Around Us."
2. ***Dancing Teepees; Some Poems of American Indian Youth*** by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve. Illustrated by Stephen Gammell. A collection of Sneve's verses, tribal songs and prayers and contemporary poets' works. Includes many tribes, such as Sioux, Dakota, Zuni, Navajo and others.
3. ***Ma'ii and Cousin Horned Toad; A Traditional Navajo Story*** by Shonto Begay. Illus. by Shoto Begay. A lazy, conniving coyote habitually takes advantage of his animal cousins until his cousin, Horned Toad, teaches him a lesson.
4. ***Motel of Mysteries*** by David Macaulay. Archeologists in the year 4022 dig up an old hotel and have their own interpretation about simple objects of our everyday life: toilets, toilet seats, etc.
5. ***Pima Indian Legends*** by Anna Moore Shaw. A collection of twenty-four stories which the author gathered from her relatives in the 1930's. Includes Pima, Yuma, and Apache. Good read aloud tales for children.
6. ***Right Here on This Spot*** by Sharon Hart Addy. Illus. by John Clapp. A boy takes a look back at what happened at his grandfather's farm from the Native Americans, Early Settlers, and the Civil War.
7. ***Singing America; Poems that Define a Nation*** by Philip Neal. Ill. by Michael McCurdy. Collection of poems with spirituals, anthems, and songs of the Pueblo and Sioux Indians.
8. ***That Tricky Coyote!*** by Gretchen Mayo. Tales from various tribes including Apache, Zuni, and Ute.
9. ***The Magic of Spider Woman*** by Lois Duncan. Illus. by Shonto Begay. Tells the Navajo tale of how a stubborn girl learns from the Spider Woman how to keep life in balance by respecting its boundaries.
10. ***The People; Indians of the American Southwest*** by Stephen Trimble. Interviews with people in fifty reservation communities and cities in the Southwest.