



Illinois 4-H | Spark Ideas. Ignite Possibilities

Art is a fun and creative way to learn about different cultures. Choose one of the following activities, research the meaning of why it's significant and symbolic in Native American culture and craft away! Some of the more well-known traditions involving sandpainting are Navajo or Tibetan.

Native American Heritage Month Spark Activity: Sandpainting

Sandpainting

Materials:

- Assorted colored sand, or use food coloring to create different colored sand
- Paintbrush
- White or off white construction paper
- White school glue
- Newspaper
- Warm water
- Craft stick
- Plastic bowl



Procedure:

Research Sandpaintings and the meaning it holds for Native American culture. After doing your research, gather inspirations that align with the meaning behind Sandpaintings.

1. Spread newspapers down on your workspace. This will help catch the sand and make clean up easier.
2. Take a small amount of warm water and add it to some glue in your bowl, to thin it out a little bit. You don't want it to be too watery, but thin enough to be able to spread with a paint brush. Use a craft stick to stir it.
3. Next paint a pattern or picture with the glue.
4. Trickle different colors of sand on the picture
5. Lay the artwork aside to dry.
6. Gently turn the picture over and let the unused sand fall off onto the newspaper.

Source: www.education.com

Totem poles were built by Native American tribes of the Pacific Northwest, and often expressed a story, tribe legend, or family lineage.



Native American Heritage Month

Spark Activity: Totem Pole

Totem Pole

Materials:

- 3 or more wooden spools
- Wood glue
- Markers
- Construction paper
- Scissors



Procedure:

Research Totem Poles and the meaning they hold for Native American culture. After doing your research, gather inspirations that align with the meaning behind Totem Poles, and create your own.

1. Stack the spools one on top of the other, and glue them together. Set it aside to dry. If you have spools of different sizes, place the largest spool on the bottom and the smallest on top.
2. As the glue is drying, research how Native Americans used totem poles as a way to tell a story from the tribe's history.
3. Ask and discuss with your parents about three important events in your life (or more if you have more than three spools).
4. When the glue is dry, draw pictures of each significant event you talked about with your parents. Use one spool for each event, and be sure to decorate all sides. Include colorful pictures illustrating what happened during the event and how it made you feel.
5. Finally, cut wings out of the construction paper, decorate them, then glue them to the back of the totem pole.

Source: www.education.com

Other ways to explore Native American Heritage Month

1. Cook a meal with your family or friends
2. Visit a reservation or museum
3. Support local Native American owned business and restaurants
4. Host an educational event where you can teach your friends about Native American culture, and do a fun activity (like the ones listed above)