



Rekindled

Contemporary Southeastern Beadwork

4th Grade Curriculum, 2017

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
AH-TAH-THI-KI
M U S E U M
A PLACE TO LEARN. A PLACE TO REMEMBER.





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Contemporary Southeastern Beadwork

Description

During this program students will discover how Seminoles maintain beadwork traditions today that connect them to their past. Students will get to see both historic and modern objects and read quotes from contemporary beadwork artists. They will be inspired by the beadwork they see to create their own patterns. This activity can be used on its own or before or after a museum fieldtrip.

Audience

This activity is geared towards 4th graders, particularly those in a social studies or art class.

Group Size

This activity is ideal for 15-20 participants. However, it can easily be adjusted for smaller or larger groups.

Time

45-60 Minutes



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Goal

Students will understand that Seminole people today continue traditions and maintain connections to their past.

Activity

0-20 minutes: Introduction

Begin by talking to students about traditions. Traditions are things that we do that are passed down from generation to generation. Seminole people use traditions to keep their culture alive.

Ask students if they have traditions. Have a couple of students share their traditions with the group. Ask students if their traditions ever change. For example, do they always eat the same exact food at Thanksgiving? Explain that today, students will learn about the importance of Seminole beadwork traditions and how they have changed and stayed the same over time.

Explain that Seminole people have a long tradition of beadwork. Show students the Russian Blue Bead (pg 8). Explain that Seminole people traded with European-Americans for beads. Before trade, they would have used shell beads. Tell students that Seminole people used beads for a variety of purposes, like decorating bandolier bags. Show students historic bandolier bags (pg 9 and 10) and explain that these objects are one type of primary source.

The tradition of physically making bags was lost due to Indian removal campaigns. During these campaigns, the US government fought wars to take over Native American lands.

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Activity

Recently, Brian Zepeda and Carol Cypress have revived this tradition. They learned about bandolier bags by looking at artifacts in museums. Although other Seminoles were not making bandolier bags, they shared information that had been passed down to them through oral histories. There are many similarities and differences between their bags and historic bags. This is an important way that they maintain their traditions.

Explain that bags today are used for different purposes than in the past. Bandolier bags were often used during the Seminole Wars. The Seminole Wars took place between 1817-1858. Often thought of as 3 separate wars, the Seminole people view it as one long war.

Ask students to read the 1st quotes from Carol Cypress and Brian Zepeda (pg 7) to learn more about how bags were used in the past. You may also wish to show the photo of both Carol and Brian (pg 11). Carol references how the sides of the straps are different while Brian discusses how the designs could communicate silently. Bandolier bags were also used for carrying ammunition during the wars.

Share with students that today people often wear bags for important events and not war. Show students the photo of Carol Cypress's grandson wearing the bandolier bag she made for him (pg 12).

Explain that the designs on the bags have also changed. Ask students to compare the designs on the historic bags (pgs 9 and 10) with the modern bags (pg 12-14). What is the same? What is different?



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Activity

Explain that Carol Cypress and Brian Zepeda were inspired by historic bandolier bags, but have also created different designs. For example, Brian chose designs that his son would like when he created the bag on pg 14 and Carol was inspired by Weeden pottery when she created the bag on pg 13. People from over 1500 years ago used this type of pottery for daily activities and possibly ceremonies on Weeden Island along Florida's central gulf coast.

20-40 minutes: Drawing Activity

Ask students to be inspired by the historic bandolier bags and to draw in their own designs on the coloring page (pg 13).

40-45 minutes: Conclusion

Gather the group together again. Have them share their drawings with one another. Ask them why bandolier bags are important to Seminole people. Have them finish the activity by reading the last quotes on pg 6 about why beadwork traditions matter.



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Materials

- Colored Pencils or Crayons
- Images and quotes (see pages 7- 14)
- Bandolier Bag Coloring Sheet (see page 15)

Florida State

Standards

- [SS.4.A.1.1](#): Analyze primary and secondary resources to identify significant individuals and events throughout Florida history.
- [SS.4.A.3.2](#): Describe causes and effects of European colonization on the Native American tribes of Florida.
- [VA.4.H.1.1](#): Identify historical and cultural influences that have inspired artists to produce works of art.



Quotes

Seminole War Quotes

“During the war time, they said that if a man was wearing [a bandolier bag] and they came by you see how he looks in front, but if you turn around and look back it looks different from the back, so that was supposed to disguise that there were more people fighting.”

~Carol Cypress

“One of those things that was passed on to me was the usage of them during wars because the bandolier bags have designs on them that were sometimes specific to a clan or a family so when you were out on a battlefield or in a battle you could look around and see if you were in the right place at the right time. “

~Brian Zepeda

On the Importance of Bandolier Bags

“When my grandsons wear the bandolier and dance with it, the people that’s gone now, we don’t really know who they were, but they’re still alive with us... And it was to honor them.”

~Carol Cypress

“When it comes to the beadwork that I’m producing today, they tell a story really because it’s not just the beadwork... they tell a story of where we’ve come from, things we’ve done in the past.”

~Brian Zepeda



Artifact

OF THE MONTH

TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE



MARCH 2014



Photo Credit: Brian Tietz



Russian Blue Bead
1800-1900
2011.12.219

Found during the 2011 Field School held at the Waxy Hadjo's Landing site on Big Cypress, this tiny glass bead (known as a Russian Blue) tells an epic tale of transatlantic trade. Though called Russian Blues, these beads actually originated in Bohemia, a historic country now located in the western half of today's Czechoslovakia.

Designed by Bohemians for use as inexpensive trade beads, they came in a variety of colors, though most commonly a "deep ultramarine" blue. The bead's most defining characteristic is its smooth facets that were created by harnessing the power of the fast mountain streams. By the mid-19th century, Bohemia was flooding the market with so many of these low-cost beads that they replaced Venetians as the trade beads of choice. Although they are most commonly found in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska where Russian fur traders traded them to local tribes, these beads also made their way to Florida where the Seminoles used them to create their beautiful beaded necklaces.

Our Tribal Historic Preservation Office preserves, documents, and promotes Seminole cultural heritage, both on and off modern reservation boundaries. One way they do this is by conducting archaeological excavations and preserving the artifacts they uncover. They share some of these objects every month with an Artifact of the Month. Find out more here: <http://www.stofthpo.com/Artifact-of-the-Month.html>.

1994.10.1

The curvy and abstract designs of flowers on this bag are often used in Southeastern-style bandolier bags. This bag is from the early 1800s. It is made of dark blue wool, red satin, and brown velvet and has both glass and metal beads.



1997.30.1

This bandolier bag from the early 1800s is made from wool red cloth and printed cotton fabric. The symbolic designs which show the fabric beneath are typical of Southeastern beadwork.





From Right to Left: Rebecca Fell (Curator of Exhibits), Carol Cypress, Brian Zepeda

Carol Cypress and Brian Zepeda shared stories about their bandolier bags at our Rekindled Contemporary Southeastern Beadwork Exhibit Reception in January, 2017.



Carol Cypress made this bandolier bag for her grandson!





This bandolier bag was made by Carol Cypress and she was inspired by Weeden pottery. The pottery was found under water which is why Carol made the bag blue.



Brian Zepeda made this bandolier bag for his son. He used his son's favorite designs and had fun making it.

