



Pocket 7

THE NAVAJO OF THE SOUTHWEST

CUT AND PASTE

Pocket Label, Shelter Stamp,
Picture Dictionary Cards page 65

See page 2 for information on how to prepare the pocket label and shelter stamp. See page 10 for information on how to prepare the picture dictionary cards.

FACT SHEET

The Navajo page 66

Read this background information to familiarize yourself with the Navajo. Share the information with your students as appropriate. Incorporate library and multimedia resources that are available.

STUDENT BOOKLET

Make a Navajo Booklet pages 67–69

See page 2 for information on how to prepare the student booklet. Read and discuss the information as a class. Encourage students to read their booklets to partners or independently.

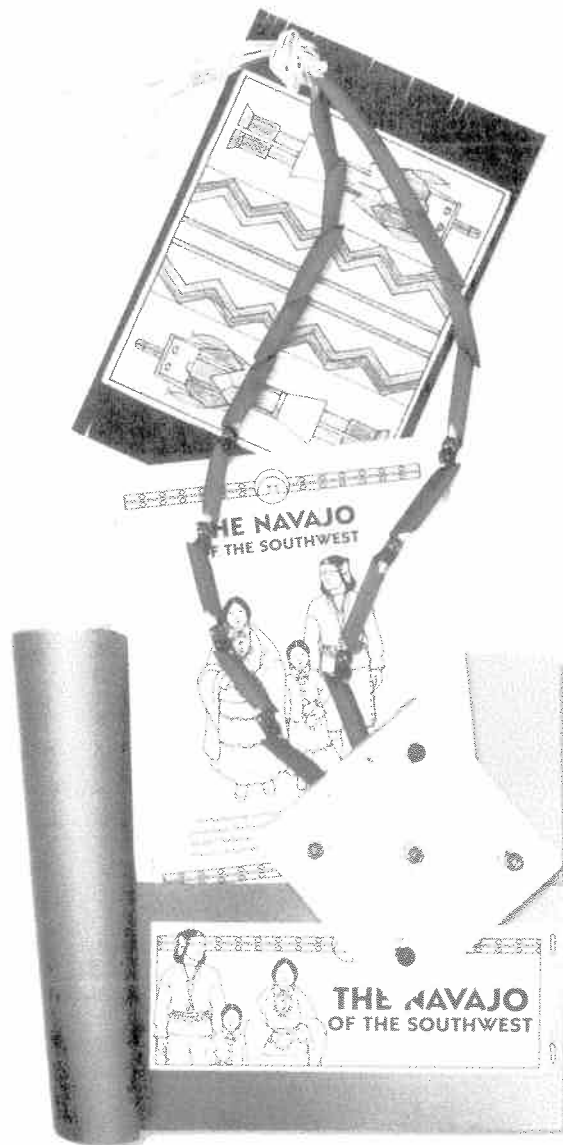
ACTIVITIES

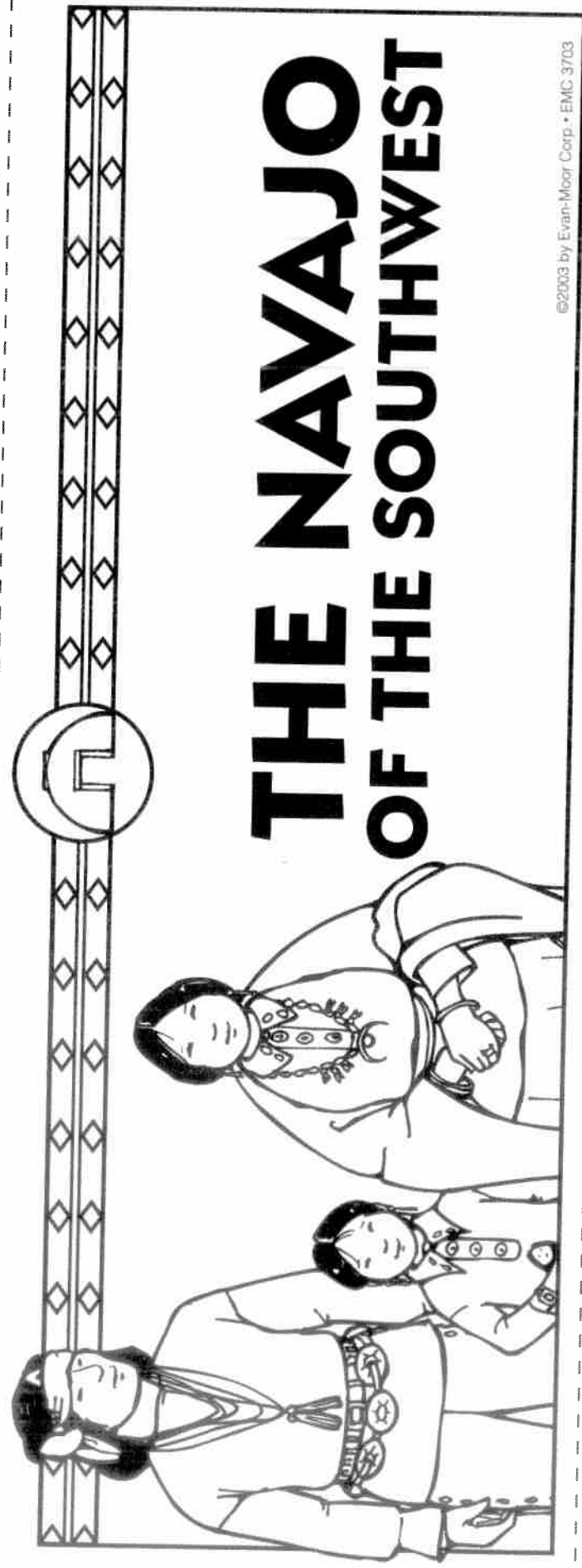
Design a Navajo Necklace pages 70 & 71

Students may discover that they can be silversmiths when they make a turquoise and silver Navajo necklace.

Create a Navajo Rug pages 72 & 73

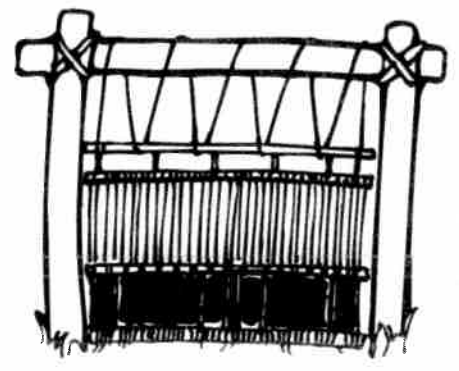
The Navajo are famous for their weavings using colorful geometric designs. Students create their own Navajo rug, using the art of crayon resist.





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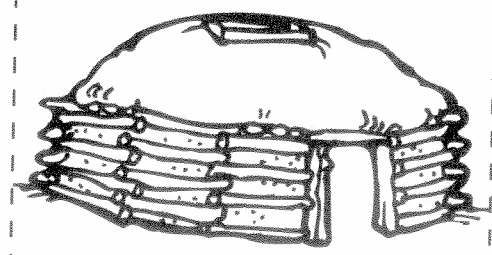
Pocket Label



loom

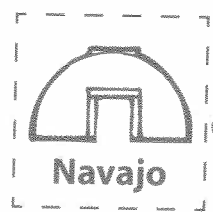


fry bread



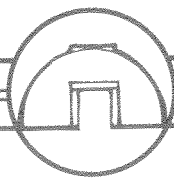
hogan

Picture Dictionary Cards



Navajo

Shelter Stamp



FACT SHEET

THE NAVAJO

INTRODUCTION

The Navajo (NAV uh hoh) tribe is one of the largest in the western United States. The Navajo lived in the canyons and mountains of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. About 200,000 Navajo currently live on the 28,000-square-mile (72,520 square kilometers) Navajo reservation located in the Southwest. The Navajo people call themselves the "Dineh," which means "People."

CLOTHING

Long before they had contact with European explorers, the Navajo wore clothes made from deerskin. Men often wore breechcloths and leggings, while women wore deerskin dresses. Both men and women wore moccasins.

Later on, Navajo clothing was often brightly colored. Men wore shirts and pants that ended halfway between the knee and ankle. They also wore a blanket that they wrapped across one shoulder. The Navajo highlighted their clothing with belts, bracelets, and necklaces made from silver and leather.

As time went on, women wore dresses made from wool. These dresses were often made from two blankets sewn together at the shoulders. Women also wore cradleboards so they could carry their babies on their backs.

FOOD

In spite of the hot, dry climate of the Southwest, the Navajo grew and harvested corn, potatoes, wheat, and fruits. However, sheep were the main source of food for the Navajo. The meat was added to soup or stew along with vegetables. Fry bread, made from wheat they had grown, usually accompanied the meal.

SHELTER

The Navajo built circular-shaped earth lodge houses that they called hogans, a Navajo word meaning "house." A hogan had a frame of sticks and logs that were covered with mud. A hogan consisted of one giant room that measured about 20 to 30 feet (6 to 9 meters) across. There was a smoke hole in the center of the roof. The entrance to each hogan

always faced east so the Navajo could pay respect to the rising sun.

Separate from the house was a veranda called a ramada. The Navajo built each ramada from four poles and a frame. The frame was then covered with brush to provide shade.

In the summer, the Navajo often wandered with their sheep herds. When winter approached, they returned to their hogans to live. If a family member died, the hogan was abandoned and the family built a new one.

FAMILY LIFE

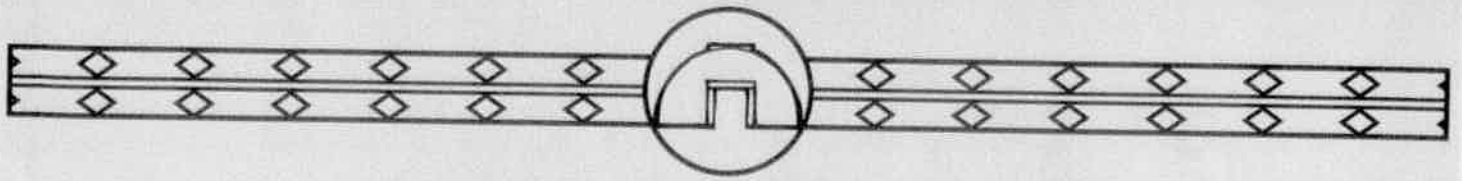
In the Navajo tribe, horses belonged to the men, while sheep and most other possessions belonged to the women. Navajo women spun, dyed, and wove the sheep's wool into beautiful blankets, clothing, and rugs. They incorporated many intricate designs and patterns. Navajo women used cacti and other plants, shrubs, and trees to make dye for their wool. Weaving was done outdoors on large vertical looms. Navajo women passed along their skills, traditions, and tools to their daughters. In fact, all Navajo property was passed from mother to daughter.

Navajo men were responsible for hunting, silverwork, and many ceremonial activities. Navajo silversmiths often made bridle ornaments for their horses, as well as belts, bracelets, rings, water bottles, and boxes.

Navajo men and women participated in dry painting. Dry painting was a type of sand painting used during a ceremony to help cure someone's illness. The dry painting was performed inside the hogan and often took hours to make. When the ceremony was over, the painting was destroyed because it had served its purpose.

Navajo children were raised by grandparents, aunts, uncles, and older brothers and sisters. At an early age, Navajo children learned to respect and act like their elders.

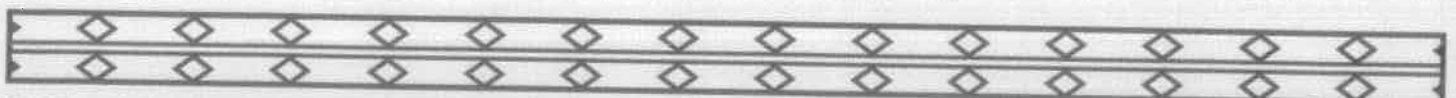
Boys learned to hunt and track animals, while girls learned to cook and weave. Both boys and girls cared for sheep, which they were told would someday belong to them.



THE NAVAJO OF THE SOUTHWEST

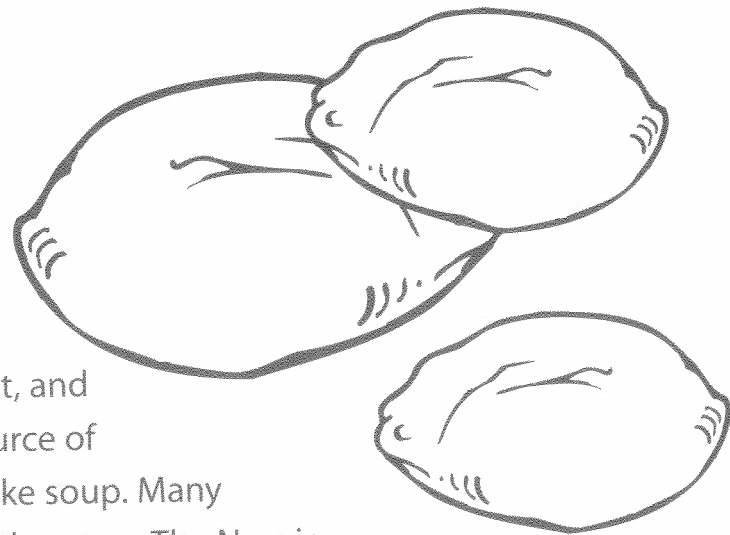


The Navajo tribe is one of the largest Native American tribes in the United States. The Navajo refer to themselves as the "Dineh," which means "People." The Navajo lived in the canyons and mountains of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. About 200,000 Navajo live on a Navajo reservation today.

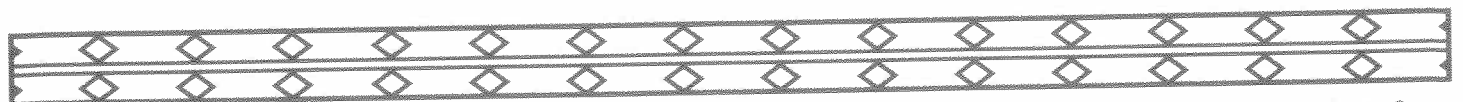


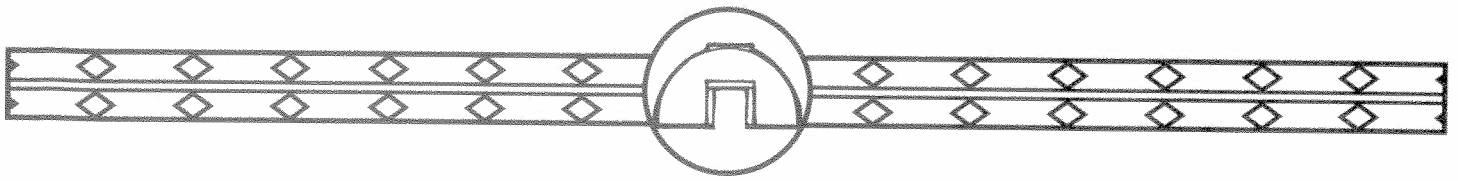


Long ago, the Navajo wore clothes made from deerskin. Later on, men wore brightly colored shirts, pants, and blankets wrapped across one shoulder. Women wore colorful dresses made from wool. They also strapped cradleboards to their backs so they could carry their babies. The Navajo also wore belts, bracelets, and necklaces made from silver, leather, and turquoise.

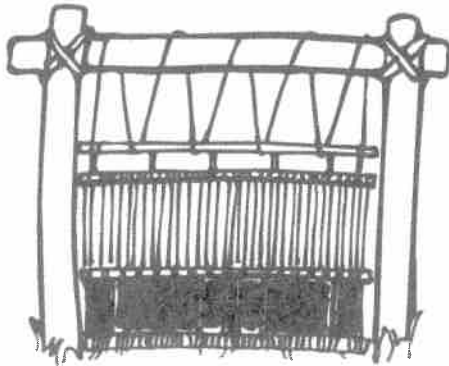
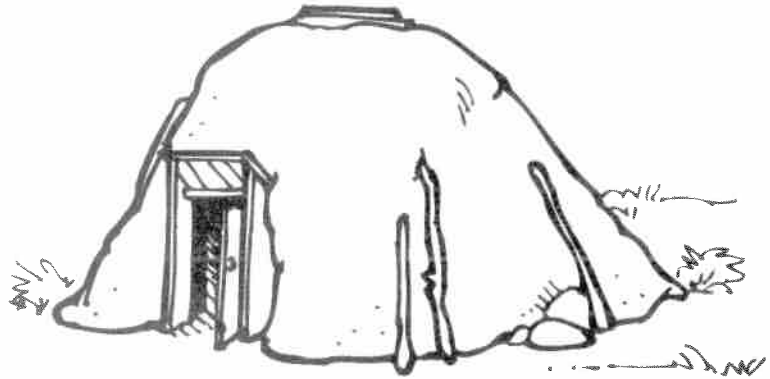


The Navajo planted and harvested corn, potatoes, wheat, and fruit. Sheep were their main source of food. The meat was used to make soup. Many vegetables were also added to the soup. The Navajo used the wheat they had grown to make **fry bread**. Fry bread was eaten at most meals.

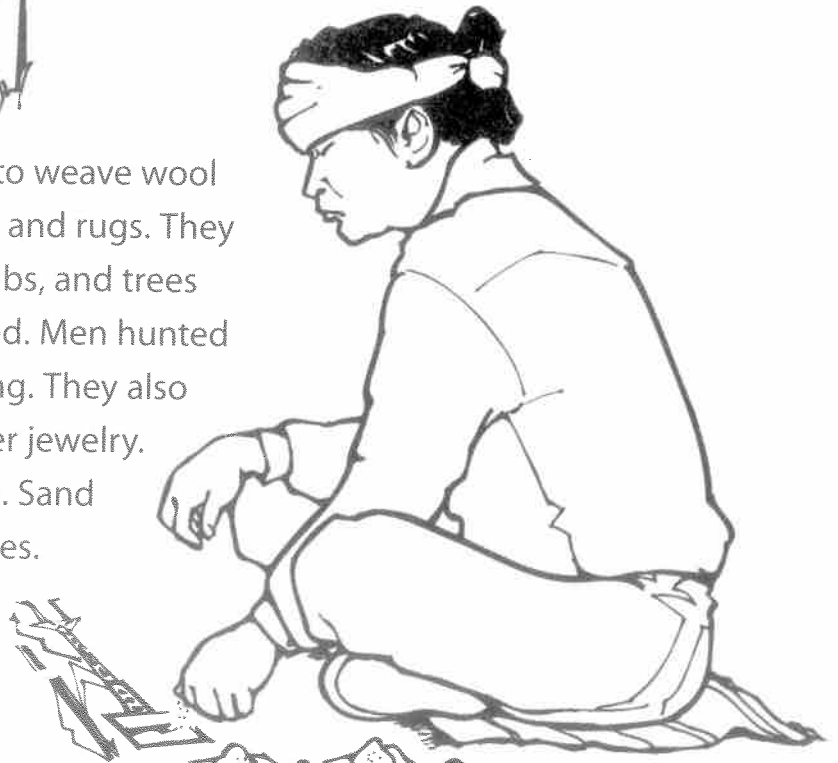




The Navajo people built lodges called **hogans**. **Hogan** is a Navajo word meaning "house." Hogans were sticks and logs packed with dirt and mud. A hogan had one giant room that measured about 20 to 30 feet (6 to 9 meters) across. There was a smoke hole in the center of the roof. The door to each hogan always faced east so the Navajo people could give thanks to the rising sun.



Navajo women used a **loom** to weave wool into beautiful blankets, clothing, and rugs. They used cacti and other plants, shrubs, and trees to make the dye that they needed. Men hunted wild animals for food and clothing. They also made silver belts, rings, and other jewelry. The Navajo made sand paintings. Sand paintings were used in ceremonies. Once a ceremony was over, the painting was destroyed.



DESIGN A NAVAJO NECKLACE

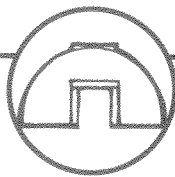
The Navajo have long been known as great silversmiths. Invite students to create a turquoise and silver Navajo-style necklace.

STEPS TO FOLLOW

1. Making the beads
 - a. Pour 2 Tbsp. (30 ml) of rubbing alcohol into a plastic bag. Add several drops of blue food coloring and blend.
 - b. Pour the desired amount of macaroni into the bag. Hold the bag tightly closed and shake until the macaroni is well coated.
 - c. Spread out the macaroni on paper towels to dry for about 10 minutes.
2. Making the necklace
 - a. Wrap the foil around the sheet of cardboard. Securely tape the foil to the back of the cardboard.
 - b. Place the necklace pattern (page 71) directly on top of the foil. Use a sharpened pencil to trace over all the lines on the paper. When the pattern is lifted, the design will be imprinted on the foil. Beads may be glued to the front of the necklace, as shown.
 - c. Use a hole punch to make two holes at the top of the necklace. Thread one end of the necklace cord through the holes, add the macaroni and beads, then tie the ends together.

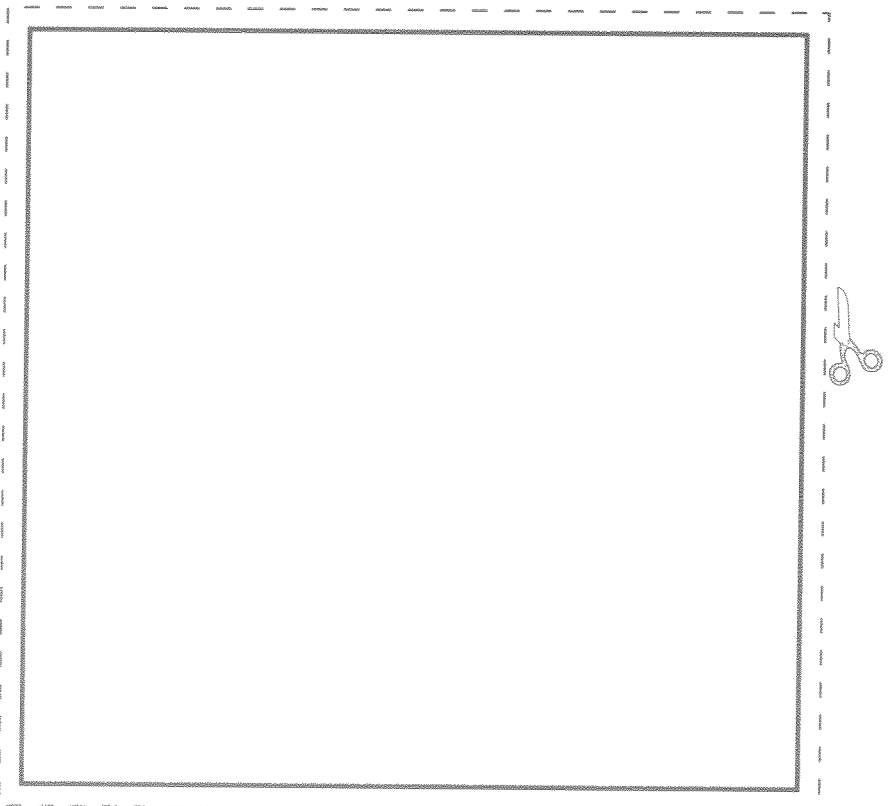
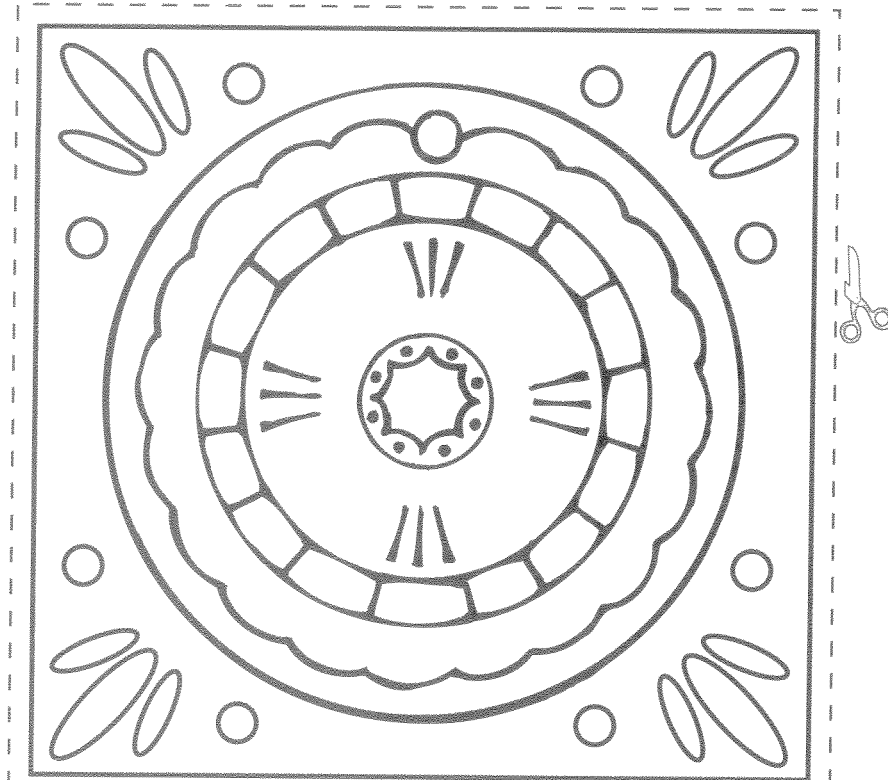
MATERIALS

- page 71, reproduced for each student
- rubbing alcohol
- blue food coloring
- plastic bag
- paper towels
- uncooked macaroni
- 4½" square (11.5 cm) of cardboard
- 5½" square (14 cm) of aluminum foil
- beads
- string or raffia
- hole punch
- pencil
- transparent tape
- glue
- scissors



DESIGN A NAVAJO NECKLACE

Use the Navajo pattern below or design your own pattern in the empty box.



CREATE A NAVAJO RUG

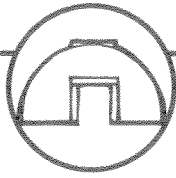
The Navajo are famous for their rugs using bold colors and geometric designs. Students create their own Navajo rugs when they use a watercolor wash to accent the crayon-colored rug.

STEPS TO FOLLOW

1. If possible, use reference materials to show pictures of Navajo rugs.
2. Hand out the pattern for the rug. Students color the rug pattern using bold primary colors. When they color in the pattern, tell them to press hard to make the crayon marks dark and solid. Students should leave plenty of white space for the color wash in Step 4.
3. Cover the worktable with a paint cloth or newspapers.
4. Place the colored rugs on the table. Wet the paintbrush and dip it into the watercolor of choice. Brush across the picture of the rug, covering all the white space on the picture. This will give the picture a color wash look.
5. Allow the picture to dry.
6. Cut out the rug pattern and glue it to the black construction paper.
7. Optional: You may choose to cut a fringe on the edges of the construction paper.

MATERIALS

- page 73, reproduced for each student
- 9" x 12" (23 x 30.5 cm) black construction paper
- crayons
- watercolor paints
- paintbrush
- container for water
- paint cloth or newspapers
- scissors
- glue



CREATE A NAVAJO RUG

