

Virtual Club Pelican

Project Title: Kumeyaay Willow Wall Hanging

Theme: Archaeology

Age Range: 7-12 years

PROJECT INTRODUCTION: Students will create a work of art paying homage to the indigenous people of the land, the Kumeyaay Tribe. The Kumeyaay lived off the land utilizing its resources in everyday living. Students will briefly discuss the role archaeology plays in how we learn about people from the past. Students will create a wall hanging work of art using found objects and materials, that is inspired by the willow tree and other items found in nature that were essential in the life of the Kumeyaay.



PROJECT MATERIALS:

- Cardboard Disk
- Found Driftwood or Stick
- String (1-3' piece and 3-1' pieces)
- Found Decorative Items; leaves, feathers, sticks, shells, dried flowers
- White Paper (8.5"X 11" for practice drawing)
- Pencil
- Beads
- Colored Pencils
- Willow Tree Shape Inspiration (attached)

PROMPT QUESTIONS:

1. Who do you think were the first people to inhabit the land where the Batiquitos Lagoon is?
2. How do you think we know about people who lived in the past?
3. How do you think the Kumeyaay Indians lived? What was their lifestyle, what did they do every day?
4. Why do you think items in nature were important to the Kumeyaay people?

DISCUSSION (discuss or read):

What is Archaeology?

Archaeology is the study of human history; it is a way to learn about people from the past. Archaeologists look at the surface of the ground or excavate (dig into the ground) to find artifacts. Artifacts are tools and other materials used in the past. Artifacts, when studied together, give clues about how people lived in earlier times.

ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM

LESSON PLAN

The Kumeyaay Indian Tribe

Initially referred to as Diegueño by the Spanish, were the original native inhabitants of San Diego County. The Kumeyaay Indians have lived in this region for more than 10,000 years. Historically, the Kumeyaay were horticulturists, hunters and gatherers of the land. They were the first people who greeted the Spanish when they first sailed into San Diego Harbor with the Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo expedition of 1542.

The Kumeyaay had land along the Pacific Ocean from Oceanside, California in the north to south of Ensenada, Mexico and extended east to the Colorado River. The Kumeyaay tribe also used to inhabit what is now a popular state park, known as Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve (Fig. A).

Living off the land was a way of life for the Kumeyaay Tribe. Kumeyaay men were hunters of game, ranging from rabbit and quail to antelope and deer. Men crafted fishhooks, arrows, bows, axes, nets, and other hunting gear by hand from natural elements. When hunting, the men would rub the leaves of the black sage plant all over their bodies, so that they smelled like their surroundings to help disguise themselves from their prey.

Kumeyaay women had their share of daily hard work as well. They made functional baskets using a coil technique, they made pottery, clothing, prepared food, and they created their shelter, which varied with the seasons and environments. They would collect shells, typically clam, abalone, or Olivella (snail) to use specifically for trade. Shell bead necklaces were also made and frequently worn.

Native plants play an important role in the life of the Kumeyaay Indians. Specific native plants were used for medicine, food, body decoration, hunting, and art. The Kumeyaay used the indigenous willow tree for several different purposes. They made willow Indian bows, clothing items like bark skirts, willow baskets, willow-tulle shelters, and fish traps. The willow tree was commonly used to create food storage baskets and domed shaped shelters specifically because willow leaves and willow branches contain salicin, which is a natural insect repellent that helped keep hungry insects away from food, seed storage and homes (Fig. B). The Willow tree also had medicinal uses as it has a natural ingredient found in aspirin, and the Indians would make tea from the branches.

Found artifacts confirm that the Kumeyaay Indians once inhabited the Batiquitos Lagoon area. There are still Kumeyaay in San Diego today and their traditions and customs remain important and central to their way of life.

ART PROJECT KEY TERMS:

Balance is the use of artistic elements such as line, texture, color, and form in the creation of artworks in a way that renders visual stability.

Shape is a flat, enclosed area of an artwork created through lines, textures and colors.

Space is the distances or areas around, between, and within components of a work of art, it can be positive or negative, open or closed, shallow or deep, and two-dimensional or three-dimensional.

Visual Texture is the way something looks like it feels to the touch.

LESSON PLAN

ART MAKING PROCESS:

STEP 1:

First, notice that your cardboard disk has one side that is white and one side that is brown (cardboard). The cardboard side of your disk is the front, this is the side you will be working on. Poke (make) one hole at the top and three holes at the bottom of the disk (about ½"-1" apart), large enough for string or yarn to fit through (Fig. 1).

STEP 2:

Take a moment to examine the shape and design of the willow tree from the inspiration images below.

- What do you notice about the willow tree? Name the parts of the willow tree.
- Do you think you would see movement if this were a real tree? Why?

STEP 3:

On the white practice sheet use your pencil and trace a circle with your cardboard disk. Practice drawing a simple, rough sketch of a willow tree within the circle. Think about the tree shape, dimension, foreground, background, movement, the branches, and the leaves (Fig. 2)

- How will you capture the texture of the leaves and represent the shape of the willow tree?

STEP 4:

Once you are happy with the practice drawing of your willow tree, use your pencil to lightly re-sketch your willow tree design onto the cardboard disk. Use your colored pencils to color in the willow tree and the background area if desired (Fig. 3).

- How will you show texture in your willow tree on a flat surface using color?

STEP 5:

You will now build your wall hanging starting with the top hanger. First, use the three-foot piece of string and thread it through the top single hole of the cardboard disk. Tie a knot with the two sides of the string at the top of the disk. Use beads or any found decorative items you have and incorporate them into the design of your hanger. To secure your piece of found wood or stick at its center, tie a knot, wrap the two strings around the object 2-3 times in both directions and tie another knot on top of the object to secure the object in place. This can be done with any other object. When you are happy with the hanger part of your art piece, tie a knot at the top and cut off the excess string (Fig. 4).

STEP 6:

Use the 3 one-foot pieces of string to create the dangling pieces at the bottom of your wall hanging. Use the same technique; threading, stringing, wrapping, and knotting with found decorative items for the bottom area of your wall hanging (Fig. 5).

- Consider, how will you create balance in your wall hanging with the different items you are choosing to use? Think about the balance of the objects as you secure them into place.
- OPTION: Instead of using found objects, you can also draw Kumeyaay inspired objects (feathers, shells, bone carvings etc.) to cut out and hang from the strings of your disk. Be sure to draw and color on both sides in case the dangly pieces twist around. Look online to see object drawing shapes and inspiration.

STEP 7:

Hold up your wall hanging, once you are pleased with the items you chose, how they work together, the balance of how it hangs and how it looks overall, your artwork is complete!

POST PROMPT QUESTIONS (reflect and share):

1. What do you like best about your artwork?
2. How does your artwork make you feel?
3. Do you feel your art project honors the Kumeyaay Tribe? Why?

LESSON PLAN

4. What do you want people to notice about your artwork?

ART PROJECT STEP BY STEP EXAMPLE:



FIG. 1

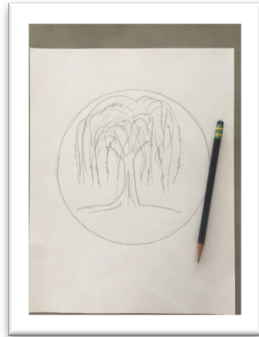


FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4



FIG. 5

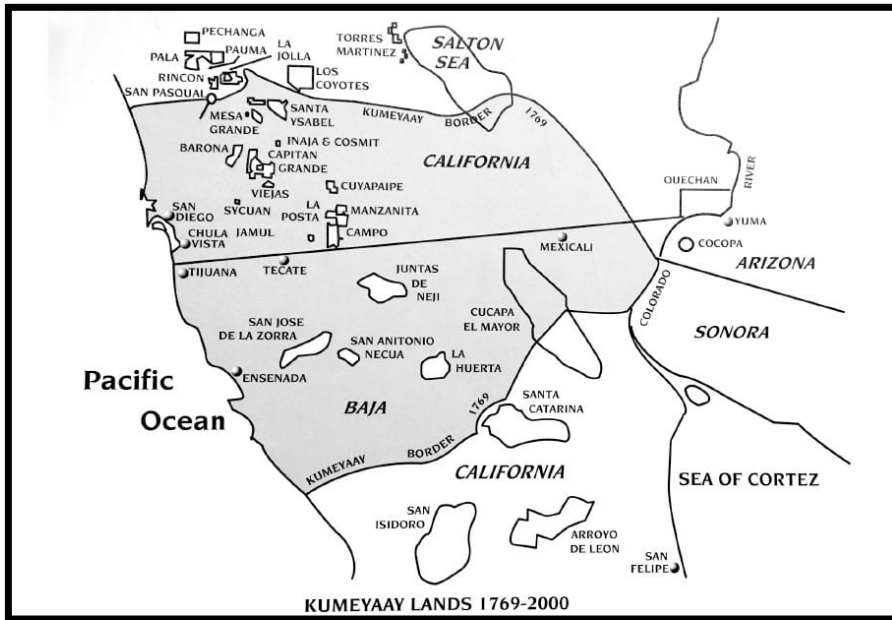
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WILLOW TREE INSPIRATION:

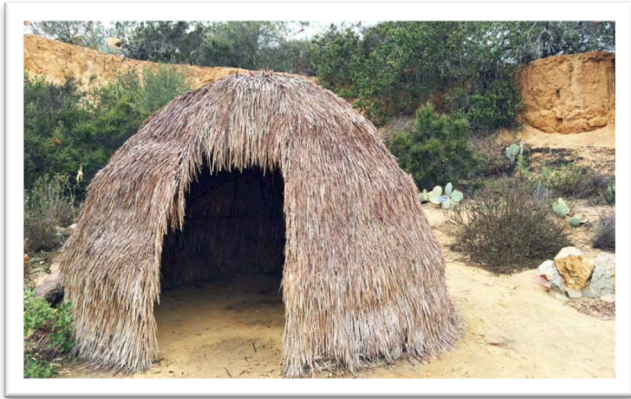


Fig. A: Kumeyaay Land



LESSON PLAN

Fig. B Willow Tree Uses



DRAWING RESOURCES:

How to draw a feather: <https://www.wikihow.com/Draw-a-Feather>

How to draw a shell: <https://dragoart.com/tut/how-to-draw-shells-4711>

How to draw a seashell: <https://easydrawingguides.com/how-to-draw-a-seashell/>