

# NEVADA NATIVE TOOLS AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

## MOCCASINS

Dancing-  
To feel the drumbeat entering my soul  
A power overwhelming all thoughts.  
Sometimes at first  
There is a feeling of loneliness.

As I enter the arena  
faces full of questioning looks,  
All eyes upon me.  
I wait for the uneasiness to leave.

I begin to dance-shyly at first.  
Then I feel the breeze and know  
my ancestors have come down to  
dance with me, and I feel their pride.

I am representing their past  
and our future.  
My head now held high  
the drum-earth's heartbeat  
intertwining with mine,  
and I know I am worthy  
of my moccasins.

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## NEVADA NATIVE TOOLS AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

### UNIT GOALS:

To understand that Nevada Natives made and owned tools and household items that had specific purposes and uses, much like today's household items.

To understand that Nevada Natives made and owned tools and household items using natural resources.

To understand that Nevada Natives developed sophisticated methods to make tools and household items from available resources.

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(Teacher and Student Worksheet)
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(Teacher and Student Worksheet)

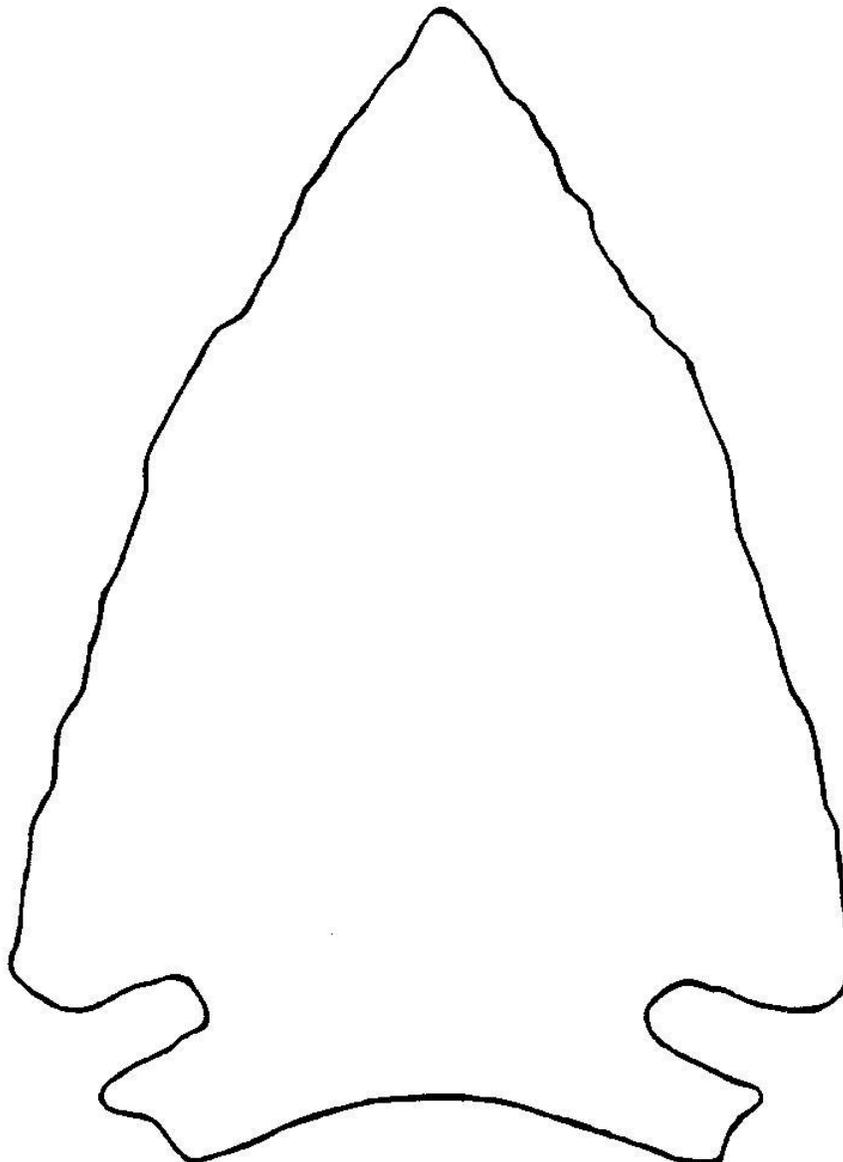


## NORTHERN PAIUTE

### Arrowhead Activity

Using Ivory soap, carve soap with a plastic knife into the shape of an arrowhead.

Follow similar shape or use pattern below.



## SOUTHERN PAIUTE

### Winnowing Tray Activity

ACTIVITY: Making and Using a Winnowing Tray

Materials needed:

wire screening  
one willow or four wood slats  
string  
beans

1. To make a winnowing tray, make a square frame of 18 inches wide x 18 inches long and 1 inch deep from wood slats. Staple or nail a piece of wire screen to the bottom of the frame. (If available a medium-sized ditch willow could be shaped into an oval for the frame. Soak the willow in hot water, gather the ends together making a tear dropped shaped frame. Bind the ends together with string and lace a wire screen of the same size and shape to the frame.)
2. To practice winnowing, place two handfuls of beans in the center of the tray. Gently toss the beans into the air about two inches high. Catch the beans in the middle of the tray.

SOUTHERN PAIUTE  
Pottery Activity

Materials needed:

red pottery clay—air dry (can be purchased at any craft store)  
small bowl of water

Procedure:

1. Make a ball of clay, be sure to have your hands wet
2. Form the ball of clay into a bowl shape. Smooth out with fingers until the bowl is the shape you want
3. Allow the bowl to dry overnight
4. Paint the outside using tempera paint

or

1. Roll clay into “snakes”.
2. Coil snakes tightly to form a solid, flat, round circle. This is the bottom.
3. Gradually build a bowl shape by winding snakes around the base, stacking each snake on top of the other.
4. Stack the snakes until the bowl is desired size.
5. Smooth out the coil joints so that the outside and inside of the bowl is smooth.
6. Let dry overnight.
7. Paint with tempera paint.

## SOUTHERN PAIUTE

### Ferrying Activity

#### Materials needed:

Wading pool or other water container.  
Water  
Small clay pots  
Lids, cups, pie plate, or other small containers  
Small items such as marbles, rocks, paper, etc.

#### Procedure:

1. Fill the wading pool or other container with water.
2. Place the different “ferrying vessels” in the water.
3. Use a variety of methods to get the ferrying vessels across the body of water, i.e. blowing, pushing, rowing.
4. Ferry your vessels across both empty and with “cargo”.
5. Record the results on the comparison sheet as you do the “ferrying” activities.
6. Answer the following questions using your comparison sheet

**SOUTHERN PAIUTE  
FERRYING COMPARISON SHEET**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Vessel Type	Method of locomotion	Time	Comments
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____

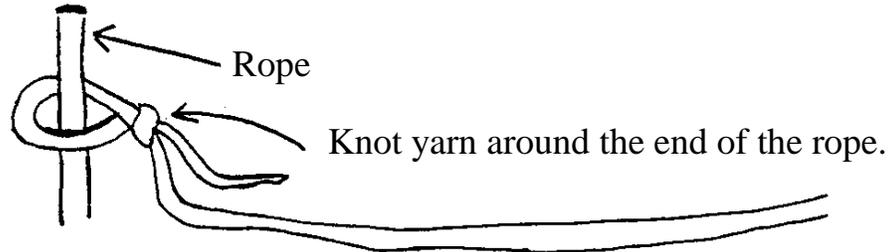
- A. Which vessel finished first?                      Last?
- B. How many kinds of locomotion did you come up with?
- C. Was your finish time different in a “full” vessel vs. an “empty” vessel?
- D. Can you come to any other conclusion using the information on your data sheet?

## BASKETWEAVING ACTIVITY

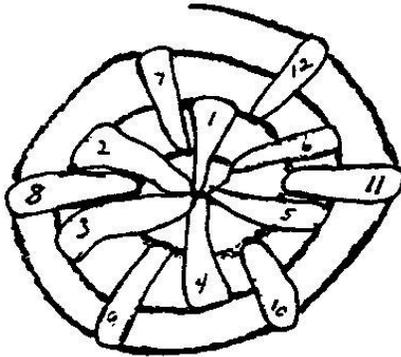
### MATERIALS:

Two feet clothesline cord (cotton) or Ponderosa pine needles.  
Two feet colored yarn.

1.



2. Coil the rope two coils.



Wrap yarn from the center around the two to the opposite side and through the center.

Pull the yarn snug.

Continue the process until you have formed a spoked center.

3. After you have completed the spoked center, begin to wrap around the 2nd and 3rd coil and poke the yarn between the first and second coil.

Continue the process until a flat woven coaster is made.

### \*OPTIONAL ACTIVITY:

After you understand the above weaving process, you may want to curve the layers up in a bowl shape as you are weaving to make a basket

## WESTERN SHOSHONE HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

### LESSON GOAL:

Students will understand that each household item that the Western Shoshone family made and owned, had specific purposes and uses, much like today's household items.

### LESSON OBJECTIVES:

Students will identify the use of specific Western Shoshone household items.

Students will identify a present-day household item that may have the same use or purpose as a Western Shoshone household item.

### MATERIALS:

Worksheet on Household items.

Student Information Workbooks.

Common household utensils or pictures.

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Using common utensils or household items, as the students, what are these household items and what are they used for?
2. Using one Western Shoshone household item, ask what it was used for?
3. Explain that they will complete the worksheet by finding a present common utensil or household item that has the same purpose or use as a Western Shoshone item.
4. Do the W. Shoshone Household worksheet

### FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY:

Compare and/or discuss the students' answers.

### EVALUATION:

Completion of the W. Shoshone Household worksheet

### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

1. Ask a Native elder to come in to demonstrate the use of the items.
2. Design a new household item that would have similar use as one of the Western Shoshone items.

## WESTERN SHOSHONE HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Identify the Western Shoshone Household Items Uses.
2. Draw and identify a household item that you have today, that has the same purpose or use as the Western Shoshone household item.

Western Shoshone Household item	Purpose or Use of item	Present Day Household item
1. Seed-beater 		
2. Winnowing tray 		
3. Storage pouch 		
4. Burden Basket 		
5. Water jug 		
6. Grinding stone and handstone 		
7. Cradleboard 		
8. Boiling basket with rocks 		
9. Stone knife 		
10. Grass spoon 		