

CORNERSTONE 2018 RESOURCE

Storytelling and Beads *Elective 1*

AUTHOR(S):	Daniel Abramson
SUMMARY:	You will learn about how beads have been used as a way of telling stories in Indigenous communities in Canada. We will learn from the models, and try creating our own beaded stories. - <i>Submitted by Daniel Abramson</i>
TOPIC(S):	Visual Arts, Storytelling
LEARNING OBJECTIVE:	Participants will understand how arts and crafts at camp can be used as an important tool for sharing personal narratives. Participants will understand that we can learn by paying close attention to the narratives and art forms of other cultures.
AUDIENCE:	Ideal for about 12 - 20 participants, 5th - 12th grade
TIMING:	90 minutes
APPENDICES:	Story of the two row wampum Website: Illustrated explanation of how to use a bead loom https://crafts.tutsplus.com/tutorials/jewellery-fundamentals-how-to-use-a-bead-loom--cms-21845 http://external.webstorage.gr/images/Books-PDF/9780715323007.pdf
MATERIALS NEEDED:	1Kg glass seed beads beading needles beading thread https://www.amazon.ca/BeadaholiqueCA-Beading-Thread-Delica-72-Yard/dp/B00ANI54FK/ref=sr_1_4?s=kitchen&ie=UTF8&qid=1519877404&sr=1-4&keywords=beading+thread&dpID=31wAXFb6zQL&preST= SY300 QL70 &dpSrc=srch
SET-UP DETAILS:	Arts and crafts

**This session can be done with or without the teaching of the Treaty Relationship that is represented in the "Two Row Wampum". Speaking about the arts and culture of other people should always be done in a respectful and contextualized way. In Canada and the United States, there is an important history of the relationship between Indigenous peoples and the government. The choice to include

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teaching about the symbolism in this Wampum can help to teach about relationships and responsibilities, noting that some research beyond this brief explanation is

necessary.

SESSION TIMELINE & OUTLINE:

5 minutes - Introduction to the bead loom, and multi-row beaded projects.

5 minutes - Looking at samples of beadwork that tells a story

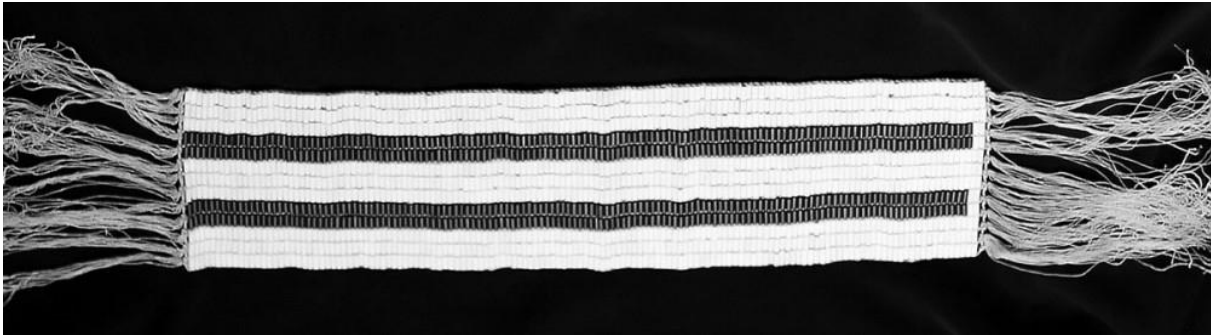
10 minutes - Learning the technique

10 minutes - Thinking of our own stories and mapping them onto beads

45 minutes - Weaving the beads

15 minutes - Sharing our beaded stories

INTRODUCTION TO THE BEAD LOOM AND MULTI-ROW BEADED PROJECTS



The wampum

The 1613 agreement was recorded by the Haudenosaunee in a wampum belt known as the Two Row Wampum. This wampum records the meaning of the agreement, which declared peaceful coexistence between the Haudenosaunee and Dutch settlers in the area. The pattern of the belt consists of two rows of purple wampum beads against a background of white beads.[1] The purple beads signify the courses of two vessels — a Haudenosaunee canoe and a European ship — traveling down the river of life together, parallel but never touching. The three white stripes denote peace and friendship.

Haudenosaunee tradition also records the specific meaning of the belt as follows, in the form of a Haudenosaunee reply to the initial Dutch treaty proposal: "You say that you are our Father and I am your Son. We say 'We will not be like Father and Son, but like Brothers.' This wampum belt confirms our words. [...] Neither of us will make compulsory laws or interfere in the internal affairs of the other. Neither of us will try to steer the other's vessel."

The treaty is considered by Haudenosaunee people to still be in effect. The Haudenosaunee tradition states "As long as the Sun shines upon this Earth, that is how long our [Two Row Wampum] Agreement will stand; Second, as long as the Water still flows; and Third, as long as the Grass Grows Green at a certain time of the year. Now we have Symbolized this Agreement and it shall be binding forever as long as Mother Earth is still in motion."

The wampum of the pact is stored in Canada and in 2013 was presented in festivities along the Hudson River celebrating the 400th anniversary of the treaty.

The Wampum is an example of the ways that symbolic work (like visual arts) can tell important stories and symbolize relationships, agreements and shared histories.

LEARNING THE TECHNIQUE

Participants will learn how to set up a bead loom and how to weave the beads into the design. There are many online resources and videos that can be used at camp to learn how to create the beadwork.

THINKING ABOUT OUR OWN STORIES

Participants will think about a story of a relationship that they wish to represent through patterns of beads. For example, if there are 12 campers in a cabin, a cabin covenant might be represented by a pattern of 12 colors that repeat. Alternatively, if a participant wished to think about stages of his or her development at camp, the beadwork might be divided creatively into thirds to represent past, present and future.

CREATING THE ARTWORK

Participants will draw their beaded stories onto a blank template page and then use the pattern page as a reference to create their beaded artwork.

SHARING OUR STORIES

Once the beadwork is complete, participants will take turns showing their own beads and sharing their stories with each other.

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR BRINGING IT BACK TO CAMP:

In Canada, many camps are thinking about programs that address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's mandate to educate all Canadians about Indigenous history, culture and experience. This program can be an important way of beginning the work of education about the history of the relationship between Canada and the Indigenous people who live here.