

CELEBRATION: SEAL HUNTING HAT GR: 3-5 (LESSON 10)

Elder Quote/Belief: “I use that sea lion whiskers on those [*Aleut bentwood hats*]. They were the hats they used long time ago to hunt in their baidarkas. They call them sun-visors when they’re out chasing seals and sea lions. Those sea lion whiskers on them bentwood hats represented what their hunter was left-handed or right-handed. If they’re left-handed the sea lion whiskers go on the right side. Right-handed hunters, they go on the left side.”

- Nick Tanape, Sr., Sea Mammal Hunter, Nanwalek

<http://jukebox.uaf.edu/mp3s/nanpg/23503-10.mp3>

Grade Level: 3-5

Overview: Hunters would use these wooden visors for several reasons; keep the sun out of the hunter’s eyes, hear sounds better as the design of the visor would amplify noises, help camouflage so the seals could not see them, décor of feathers and/or sea lion whiskers help to indicate the way the wind was blowing, and the more elaborate decorations the seals would give themselves to the hunter.

Standards:

<i>AK Cultural:</i>	<i>AK Content Science:</i>	<i>CRCC:</i>
C1 Perform subsistence activities in ways that are appropriate to local cultural traditions:	A3 Develop an understanding that culture, local knowledge, history, and interaction with the environment contribute to the development of scientific knowledge, and local applications provide opportunity for understanding scientific concepts and global issues.	SS5 Students should be familiar with habits and behavioral characteristics of traditional subsistence animals, fish and birds

Lesson Goal: Students will learn how to make their own seal hunting visor and the importance of the design of the hat. The purpose of the shape of the visor was to keep sun out of the hunter’s eyes and keep the spray of ocean water out of the hunters face.

Lesson Objective(s): Students will:

- Make a seal hunting visor
- Learn Sugt’stun/Eyak vocabulary words

Vocabulary Words: Sugt’stun Dialects

English:	Prince William Sound:	Lower Cook Inlet:	Eyak:
Visor			
Hat	nacahpak	sapek	Ch’iyahd
Seal	qaigyaq	qaigyaq	geeltaaq , keeltaq
Hunter		Pisurta	K’uch’iya (Good hunter)

Materials/Resources Needed:

Pattern for the hunting hat (Attached)

Poster board paper

Pencil/ markers/ color crayons

Scissors

Hole punch

Glue

Pipe cleaners

Feathers

Beads

Stapler

Optional: Monofilament line to represent sea lions whiskers, modeling clay to make hunting amulets for decoration

Books:

Glory Remembered- Wooden Headgear of Alaska Sea Hunters

Website/Videos:

- Nick Tanape, Sr., Sea Mammal Hunter, Nanwalek
 - <http://jukebox.uaf.edu/mp3s/nanpg/23503-10.mp3>
- Bentwood Visor <https://museums.alaska.gov/PDF/teachersResources/hat/bentwoodVisor.pdf>
- Alaska Native Collections- Sharing Knowledge <https://alaska.si.edu/record.asp?id=242>
- Making Traditional Alutiiq Visors – Learn the methods of traditional bentwood visor making <https://youtu.be/wxfBfJ3j-3k>

Teacher Preparation:

- Invite an Elder or Recognized Expert into the classroom to talk about traditional hunting hat/visors; how they were made, design decoration and purpose.
- Locate and gather materials needed.
- Display photos of hunting hat/visors attached to lesson.
- Display hunting visors (actual wood visor and the one made from poster board) from Celebrations kit
- If kit not ordered, make a hunting hat prior to class to show as an example for students

Opening: Can anybody tell me about the traditional hunting hat/visors that were worn by the hunters? The hunting hat was designed for many reasons. One was that it kept the sun and glare from the water out of the hunter's eyes. Two, the hat/visor allowed the sound to magnify allowing the hunter to hear long distances away. Three, the seal whiskers helped determine the way the wind was blowing. Four, the hats were elaborately decorated to show respect for the animals hunted. The more decorated hat/visors would indicate a successful hunter and/or the chief of the village.

Today, we are going to make our own traditional seal-hunting hat. As we decorate our hunting hats, keep in mind that spirals meant water; decorations were made of feathers, whiskers, beads and elaborate carvings of animals hunted.

Activities:

Class I:

1. Show the students the YouTube video - *Making Traditional Alutiiq Visors – Learn the methods of traditional bentwood visor making* <https://youtu.be/wxfBfJ3j-3k>
2. Discuss the seal hunting hat that was used and the designs that were used.
3. Hand out the pattern and supplies needed to construct the hunting hat.
4. Give step by step instructions on where to punch holes and where to staple to form the hat after decorated.
5. Give students ample time to create and decorate their own seal hunting hat.
6. Once the students are finished have them practice the seal dance wearing the hunting hats.



Traditional Seal Gut Raingear, Hunting Visors, Spears

END TO END
depend on size
of head
(approx 17.5")

BACK OF HEAD

FRONT
OF HEAD

Approx: 17 1/2" x 15"

Approx 15"

Hole punch

HUNTING HAT
PATTERN

- Use poster paper
- Allow students to decorate hat
- Can use pipe cleaners to go through hole punches and can spiral if desired (whiskers)
- Can also use feathers if desired.

END TO END
if space short
to fit head

Step 1- Enlarge pattern to fit on poster board – approximately 17.5”x 15”

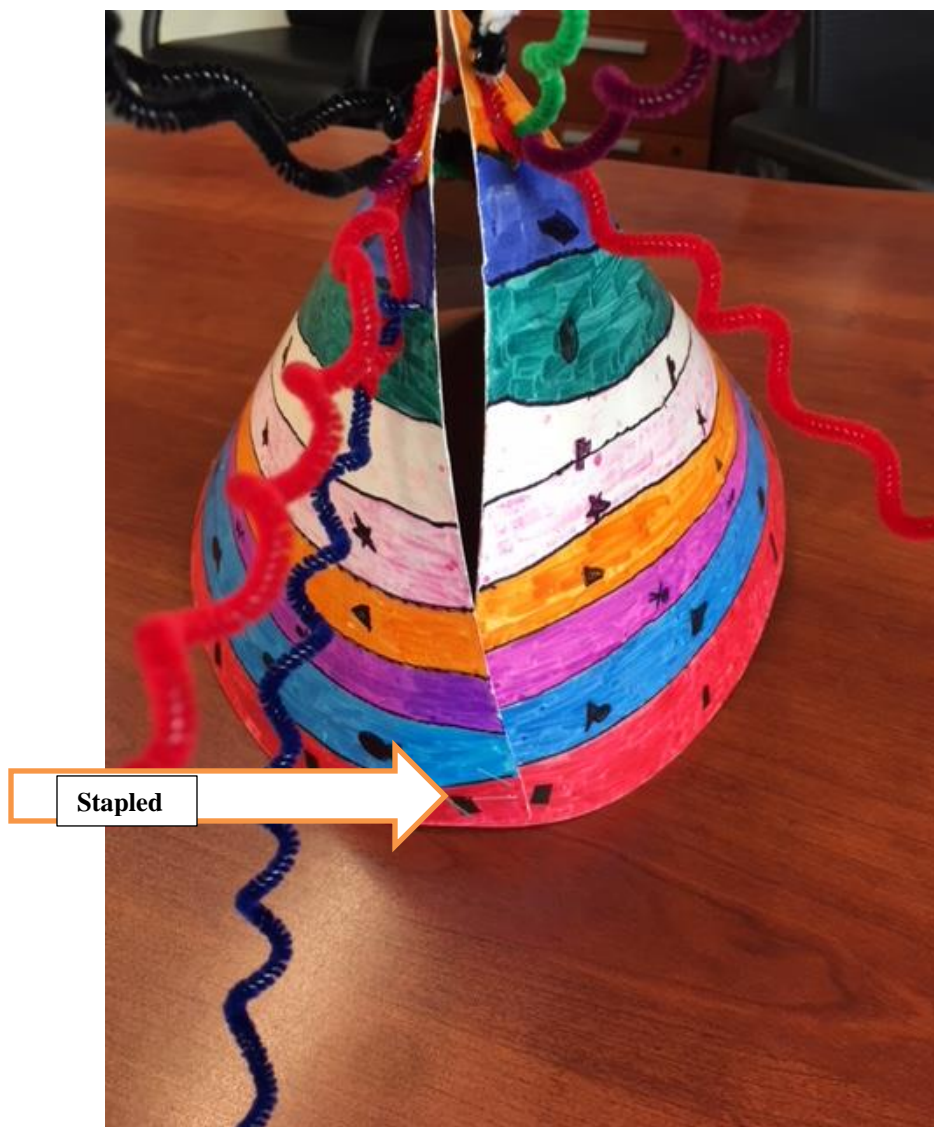
Step 2- Trace the pattern onto the poster board.

Step 3- Allow students to color the hat as desired, while flat. Encourage students to remember the reason behind the hunting hats and how it was decorated to show respect to the animals hunted. Some students may even want to make little seals to decorate hat with.

Step 4- Punch out holes about a half inch away from middle on each side of the flat side of pattern where it is listed as back of head.

Step 5- Staple the end to end where it fits best on the student’s head.

Step 6- Decorate with pipe cleaners, feathers, beads or whatever supplies that were gathered as desired.



Staple the two ends together after student colored hat as desired.

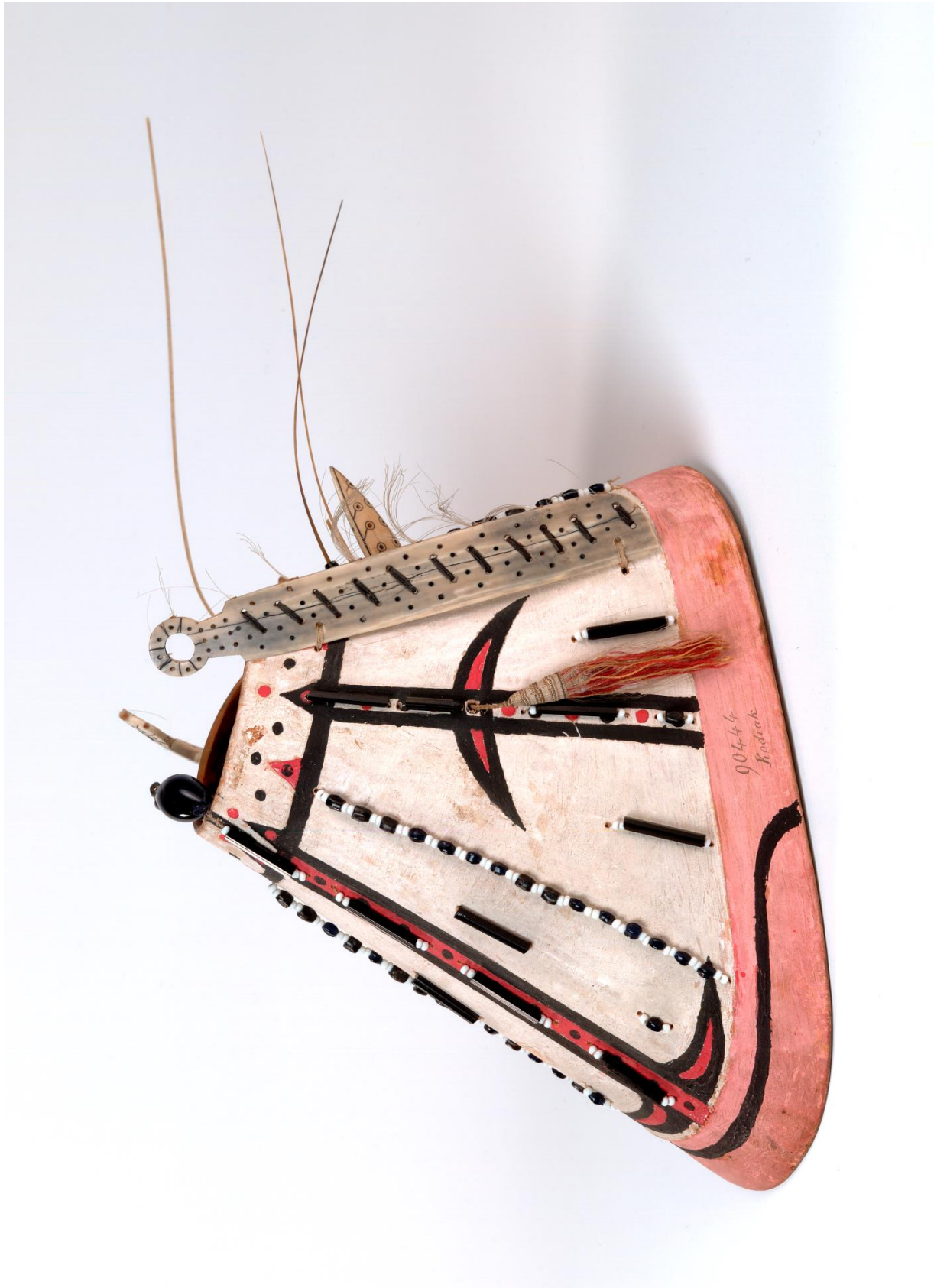
Put the pipe cleaners/ feathers through the punched out holes.



Finished Seal Hunting Hat

Assessment:

- Students can give the reasons behind the details on a hunting hat/visor traditionally used.
- Students successfully created and completed a hunting hat.
- Students wore their hunting hats during the seal dance performance.



Hunting Hat, photo courtesy of Dr. Crowell, Smithsonian Arctic Studies



Carved hunting amulets of seals, photo courtesy of Dr. Crowell, Smithsonian Arctic Studies



Visor located in Native Village of Eyak Ilanka Center. Photo courtesy of Kari Brookover



Visors located in UC Berkeley, Photo courtesy of Barclay Kopchak



Visors located in UC Berkeley, Photo courtesy of Barclay Kopchak



Hunting hat located in UC Berkeley, Photo courtesy of Barclay Kopchak



A traditional hunter doll wearing the hunting hat. The long bill covered the hunter's eyes, which prevented glare for the water and protected the hunter's eyes from the water spray.



Notice the seal whiskers on this doll's hunting hat...