

**Elder Quote/Belief:**

*"I am not surprised  
that the Chugach  
people stayed in this  
region because of all  
the amazing resources  
this area has to offer,  
from the land to the  
sea.*

*I am a firm believer in  
living off the land like  
my ancestors did."*

*-Jim McDaniel, Cordova*



**Grade Level: 3 - 5**

**Overview:** Given the importance to the Chugach peoples' oral traditions, it comes as no surprise that children and adults alike, fashioned puppet to interpret stories. Puppets are effective in delivering their message because there is a magic in their medium. Storytelling with your own Chugach puppet will take more than one lesson to create traditional clothing for their puppet, play a memory game with the Chugach A to Z poster, put on a puppet show sharing a traditional story/legend. Enough time should be set aside for all activities. This lesson is designed to teach the following:

1. Student will learn about the traditional clothing of the Chugach people by creating regalia for their own puppets.
2. Students will see how they look in traditional clothing by interacting through the Virtual Wardrobe.
3. Students will learn that stories and legends reveal much of the origins of a people.

**Standards:**

<i>AK Cultural:</i>	<i>AK Content Science:</i>	<i>CRCC:</i>
<b>A3:</b> Culturally-knowledgeable students are well grounded in the cultural heritage and traditions of their community.	<b>F1:</b> 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.	<b>CE2:</b> Students should have knowledge of traditional and contemporary sewing and clothing using skins and furs.

**Lesson Goal:**

- Students will become aware of traditional clothing of the Chugach people.
- Students will have an opportunity to touch the raw materials and will learn how the Chugach people used these raw materials to make clothing.
- Students will also learn about traditional clothing through the Virtual Wardrobe.  
Student will visually see how they look in traditional Chugach clothing with interaction in the Virtual Wardrobe.
- This class will finish up with the students listening to a traditional story and they will be able to contribute to its retelling with a puppet show. This puppet show is a way to let kids showcase their creation and become storytellers.

**Lesson Objective(s):**

Students will

- Make traditional clothing for their own Chugach puppet using resources from our region.
- Have the opportunity to dress in traditional Chugach clothing by experiencing the Virtual Wardrobe.
- Listen to a traditional legend/story and contribute to its retelling, using their puppet as their storyteller.

**Vocabulary Words:**

Sugt'stun Dialects

English:	Prince William Sound:	Lower Cook Inlet:	<a href="#">Eyak:</a>
Hello (to one person) Hello (to several)	camai	camai	<a href="#">iishuh</a> <a href="#">IAXiishuh</a>
Story/legend			wAXah
Storyteller			wAXahch'iya'

**Materials/Resources Needed:**

- A puppet for each of the students. Purchase the following puppets on Amazon (these puppets are adorable and multi-ethnic!) or they can also be handmade (YouTube- puppet making).
- **Amazon Fun Express Plush Happy Kids Hand Puppets Multi-Ethnic Collection Novelty (Set of 8)**



- Gather supplies -girl and boy puppet materials list is attached to this lesson.
- Video camera or smartphone for videotaping
- Stapler
- Markers
- Ink pads
- Wildlife rubber stamps
- Tacky glue
- Small paper plates for glue
- Popsicle sticks to spread the glue
- Fine tip permanent black Sharpie
- Ask local Native dance group if they have regalia to put on display.

#### **In Kit:**

- Raw materials-Furs, leather, seal gut, etc.
- Puppet Theater.
- Puppets - Exenia, Cecil, Sophie, and Galushia.
- Puppet Show information sheet on Eyak and Sugpiat puppets.
- Chugach A to Z poster.
- Request Virtual Wardrobe kit and information/set-up lesson and step-by-step instructions.

#### **Books:**

- *Chugach Legends*
- *Eyak Legends*

#### **Teacher Preparation:**

1. Invite an Elder/ Recognized Expert who has led a traditional lifestyle in your region. Ask him or her to share subsistence values, experiences, and stories. Ask the Elder to share their knowledge of traditional materials used for making clothing.
2. Review with the students the proper ways to show respect for the guest speaker.
3. Review puppet show video on the Chugachmiut Heritage site- Clothing.
4. Order or make the puppets.
5. Locate and gather materials needed for this lesson.
6. Review the Chugach A to Z poster.
7. Review Virtual Wardrobe lesson and set-up instructions. Set up the Virtual Wardrobe prior to class.
8. Set out the Virtual Wardrobe clothing information sheet to explain to the students about each set of clothing and what it is made from.
9. Review each of the puppets and the puppet show information.
10. Set up the puppet theater.
11. Familiarize yourself with the materials and resources in kit.
12. Review *Chugach Legends* page 12- Chugach Origin of the Name.

**Opening:** What clothing do you wear every day from head to toe? What do you think our ancestors; the Chugach wore in the past? Is it important to know what the Chugach wore and what resources they used from our region?

Did you know that traditional clothing and legends are part of what makes up a “culture”? Did you know that the Chugach people passed on many of their traditions through stories and legends? Oral traditions (stories and legends) were very important to the Chugach people. Children and adults alike fashioned puppets to tell these stories.

### **Activities:**

#### **Class 1: Puppet Show**

1. Teacher may need an assistant to help with the puppet show.
2. Read the Origin of the Chugach name from Chugach Legends book. Page 12.
3. Presentation of the puppet shows, starring: Cecil, Exenia, Galushia, and Sophie, using the puppet theater. Puppet show video is also on the Chugachmiut Heritage website.
4. Review everything the students learned through the puppet show with the *Chugach A to Z* poster. This is a great memory game to play after puppet show. Use the *Chugach A to Z* poster and point out the different pictures. Ask the students what the picture has to do with Chugach traditional clothing. Each student whom answers a question, will receive an” Eyak Eye” token. At the end of the memory game the student with the most “Eyak Eye” tokens wins a prize.

#### **Class II: Virtual Wardrobe**

1. Students participate with the Virtual Wardrobe. Teacher will review the clothing using the clothing information sheet as a guide. Each student will have an opportunity to try on the clothing through Chugachmiut’s Virtual Wardrobe.
2. Show students the raw materials that are located in the kit. Pass materials and then pass around the puppets in the kit.
3. Show students their puppets and their clothing kit materials.
4. Continuation of Chugach A to Z memory game , if there is extra time.

#### **Class III, IV & V: Making Clothing for your Chugach Puppet**

1. Pass out the clothing kits to the boys and girls. Let the students choose their own puppet.
2. Instructions for the girl puppet (See step by step photos below for Sugpiat or Eyak):
  - a) For dress: Students may add the tassels with beads and fur/ leather strips to their dress using tacky glue.
  - b) For head dress: Next they can string on beads with imitation sinew and loop each set of beads through the holes on the edge of the leather strip. This strip then will be glued to the round plastic ring with tacky glue.
  - c) For ornamentation: Lastly the students will learn about traditional tattoos. They can add a tattoo on the face of their puppet with a permanent fine tip Sharpie. If students like, they can braid the hair and add ornamentation to the hair.
3. Instructions for boy puppet (See step by step photos below for Sugpiat or Eyak):
  - a) Students will start with the vest: They can decorate it with stamps of wildlife and with tacky glue add fur or leather as desired. Use a sticky velcro to close up the top of vest.
  - b) Next they can work on their bentwood visor: Adding sea lion whiskers (fishing line). Staple these whiskers onto their visor. Decorate visor with stamps or designs traditional to the bentwood hunting visors. String a few beads on imitation sinew to be used for chin straps attached to visor. Loop each strap through the holes on the side of the visor. Tie these around the chin of the puppet.

4. The students will learn about the Eyak headband also. They can make this headband by stamping their leather strip, maybe adding a few beads and feathers. This strip then will be glued to the round plastic ring with tacky glue.
5. They can glue on a porcupine quill to represent their nose pin.
6. They can glue on buttons to represent their labret. Explain the labret (lip ornamentation) and show 3D model if desired
  - [https://sketchfab.com/models/a435bb25a7194e86bb627a620007a3d2?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=model-shared](https://sketchfab.com/models/a435bb25a7194e86bb627a620007a3d2?utm_source=email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=model-shared)

### **Class VI & VII: Review Chugach and Eyak Stories for Puppet Show**

1. Arrange for an Elder to come to the classroom. Ask Elder if he/she will tell a Chugach story or legend to the class. The story "*The Origin of Chugach*" can be used giving the class a better chance to retell it with expression.
2. Following the story have student volunteers retell it with their puppet using the puppet theater. Then, divide the story into scenes, making note of the sequence of events, actions, and the characters. Have the class describe the setting including time, place, season, and other important information.
3. Explain to the class that they will be rewriting the story into a script for a puppet show. Talk about scenes. Assign students parts of the script to read with their puppets in the puppet theater. Have the class describe the actions and expressions that would be natural to the situation.
4. Perform a puppet show.

### **Assessment:**

- Students can identify raw materials used from our region to create traditional Chugach clothing.
- Students can explain the traditional Chugach clothing by their interaction with the Virtual Wardrobe.
- Students can explain a traditional legend/story and successfully retell the story, using their puppet as their storyteller.
- Students can correctly say and point out the Sugt'stun/ Eyak words for hello, stories and legends.

## SUGPIAT MALE PUPPET-CECIL

Camai my name is Cecil. I would like to share with you some information on what I am wearing from head to toe.

On my head is a bentwood visor. My visor is decorated with beads and sea lion whiskers. For every seal or sea lion I harvest, I will attach one of their whiskers to my hat to show my respect for the animal, also beads and feathers were attached to the whiskers. So I don't lose my hat while I am in my kayak on the water, I have cords of finely worked sinew attached so I can tie under my chin.

My nose and ears are ornamented with dentalium shells (others have used bird bones, feathers, beads, or sea lion whiskers). And if you are wondering that is a labret or lip plug in my chin. This labret lets you know what village I belong to. I am in a rain parka stitched of horizontally sewn strips of bear intestines, although seal, whale, and sea lion intestines were also used. The strips are sewn with a waterproof stitch. There is a piece of beach grass included in the stitch. The grass expands when wet, really making my parka waterproof. And did you know that intestines of brown bear were always harvested in the spring. Why do you think they are harvested in spring instead of fall? Because in the fall, the bear intestines are full of holes from all the sharp fish bones from the salmon they have been eating. Wouldn't make a very waterproof garment, would it? I tell you, this parka provided the best protection from rain and cold, especially when hunting on the ocean. I tie the bottom of my gut parka around the hatch opening to seal the vessel against waves. It's awesome!

I read this excerpt out of the book *Innerskins and Outerskins- Gut and Fishskin*. "The snow is blowing. The seas are rough. And you're getting cold. If you have a rubber raincoat you're going to freeze to death. But if you have this one, this gut parka, you're going to last a little bit longer because it's going to keep you warm." The guts are more breathable than modern materials, and they don't freeze and crack.

My mittens are made of salmon skin which is also sewn with a waterproof stitch. Now, I would like to introduce my friend, Exenia. Camai Exenia!





## SUGPIAT FEMALE PUPPET-EXENIA

Quyana Cecil and Camai everyone.

My name is Exenia. I am wearing my best, most beautiful parka. The design of this parka represents my people the Chugach Sugpiat. The main body of the parka is made from sea otter fur. Did you know that there are approximately 1 million hairs per square inch? Wowza! The fur is known for its thickness and softness. The parka tassels are of dyed skin, sea otter fur, accented with red cloth with white ermine tufts. My people made practical parkas for working in a harsh environment and also the best, beautiful parkas to wear at the winter ceremonies. These beautiful parkas craftsmanship was a symbol of the respect for the animal that enveloped the clothed person.

Men's and women's design were very similar, loose fitting and without a hood. My mittens are made of seal skin and sea otter trim.

I am wearing a headdress. These headdresses were mainly worn at dances and feasts. Do you like my dangling pendants on the sides and the long beaded tails in the back? These beads were traded for sea otter hides. Our hunter would lay a sea otter pelt on a table and put beads to the height of the sea otter fur. They were paid maybe two to three glass beads per hide. That's why we called them trade beads. So that means that this headdress I am wearing was traded for at least twenty sea otter hides. I come from a family of great hunters.

I am wearing earrings which were tied through perforation, sometimes six or eight strands on each ear. See look!

My tattoos were sewn into skin with a bone needle and soot blackened thread. My tattoos were a symbol of a change in my life, or of my wealth or status in the village. Quyana for inviting me here!

Now I would like to introduce my friend Galushia, an Eyak chief. Come on up here Galushia, don't be shy...





## EYAK MALE PUPPET-GALUSHIA

Iishuh (pronounced-“ee shoe”)

My name is Galushia. I am the chief of the Eyak people from Alaganik village. I am wearing a wooden crown with feathers. This is quite a celebration so I thought I should dust it off for the occasion, I usually only wear it when I’m dancing. Should I bust a move for you all?

I am also wearing a copper nose ring and around my neck I have an amulet bag. I have a special jewel inside the bag that was gifted to me by Bill Smith.

AwA’ahdah (thank you in Eyak) Bill Smith, wish you were here!

On the front of my amulet bag I have a painted Eyak eye. This symbol of the Eyak eye has been painted on doors and canoe paddles.

I am wearing what most Eyak men wear and that is a pull over frock. I am a chief so mine is decorated along the seam with fringe. It is made of de-haired caribou hide, waist length, and sometimes decorated with animal teeth and porcupine quills.

Of course, in the winter months, I would wear an inner shirt of seal skin with the fur against the body for warmth. The outer shirt has a hood and is made of eagle skins or swan skins with just the down attached (they are so warm). The very wealthy great hunters or chiefs wear sea otter skins. Seal skin is worn by both Eyak men and women.

During the summer, rainy weather, I wear a bear intestine parka, similar to the Chugach, which protects me from the wet, cold weather.

I also am wearing beaver fur mittens.

My people wear sealskin boots, which come right below the knee. Boots are only worn while traveling or hunting. When we are at home in their village, we walk around barefoot, even in the snow. I’m pretty tough, aren’t?!

Now I would like to introduce my friend Sophie-Sophie, would you like to tell these nice people what you are wearing?





## EYAK FEMALE PUPPET-SOPHIE

Ishuh my name is Sophie.

I am wearing a headband with an eagle feather attached. Pam Smith told me the meaning of my headband, which has white diamonds on a red background. The white diamonds are touching, which is a symbol of WE ALL STAND TOGETHER.

I am wearing dentalium shells on my hair to decorate my braids.

My shirt reaches my knees. I have fringe attached and porcupine quills for decoration. A chief's daughter usually had dentalium shells attached to the hem of the skirt.

Both men and women wear pants made of seal skin. They also wear mittens made of muskrats or beavers.

Women wear sealskin boots, sometimes bearskin, with the hair turned inside on the sole and the upper part of boot. It looked similar to the Eskimo boot. The boots of chiefs are decorated with beads and porcupine quills at the tops. I left mine at my home today because I am warm.

They used mountain goat sinew for all of their sewing.

These are some of the taboos with sewing clothing:

- The women are not allowed to make clothing while their husband was out hunting.
- Women are not allowed to wear fresh sealskins.
- Land and sea animals are not to be sewn together in one garment.

AwA'ahdah- Thank you (Eyak)



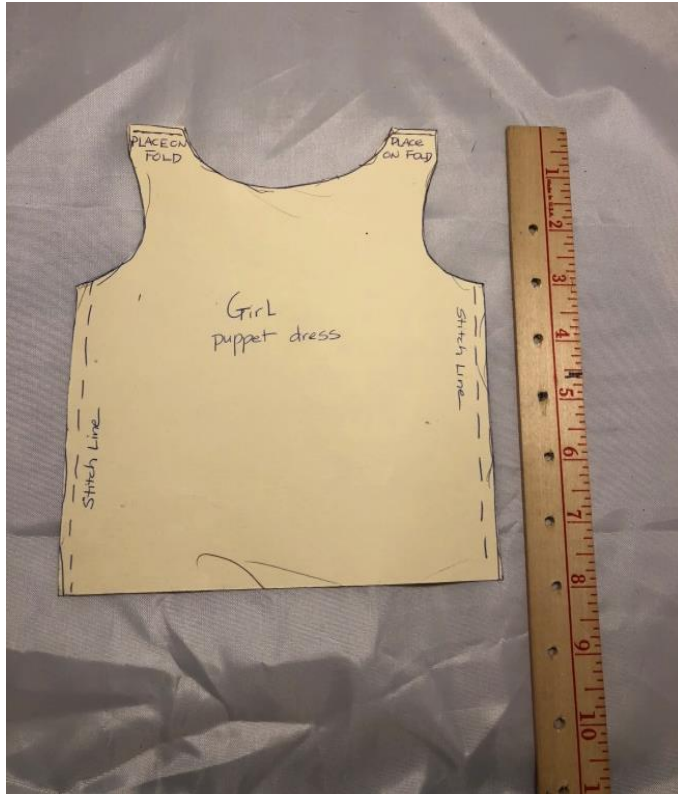


Supply list and patterns for clothing for 13" Chugach  
puppet – boy or girl



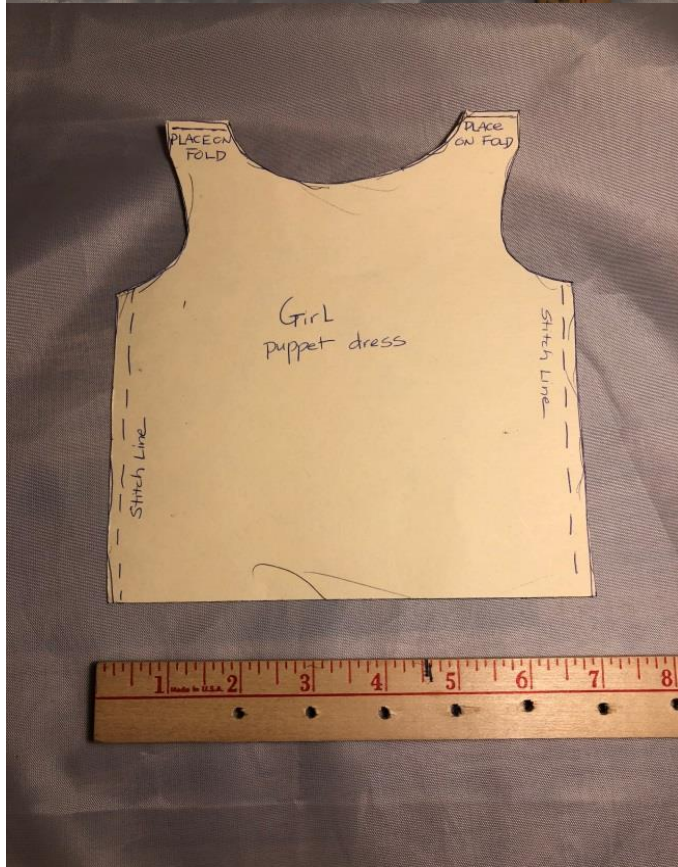
Supplies suggested for a 13" girl puppet kit:

- Dress pattern 8"x7"
- 7" x 1/2" fur strip
- 7" x 1/2" leather strip
- Plastic ring (headband)
- 1 yard sinew
- Handful of seed beads
- 3 leather tassels (4' long)
- 6 pony beads



Dress pattern for girl puppet. This pattern fits a 13" puppet. This is a simple tunic made from two pieces- a front and back with seams along the sides.

The tunic was traditionally made from caribou leather. This dress can be embellished with leather and fur strips, beads, and feathers.





Here you go...  
A finished Chugach girl  
puppet adorned with regalia.  
She also has a headband that  
was beaded on leather strip  
and glued onto plastic ring.



### Supplies suggested for a 13" boy puppet kit:

- Vest pattern 6"x7"
- Visor pattern 10"x 9.5"
- 2-22" hat cords –imitation sinew
- Hat instructions on decoration
- One plastic ring for headband
- Few seed beads
- 2 pony beads
- One set of Velcro dots
- 1 whisker (halibut fishing line)
- 1 porcupine quill
- 3 feathers
- 14" x ½" fur strip



This is the pattern for a bentwood visor for a 13" Chugach boy puppet. This visor is made from brown poster board.





Vest pattern for a 13”  
Chugach boy puppet.  
The vest is similar to the  
girl’s dress. It has a front  
and back and sewn up  
along the side seams.







A Completed Bentwood Visor  
The visor has been decorated with black markers and stamps, whisker with beads and the chin straps made from brown imitation sinew (beads attached on the strings to secure them in place). Ideas for design elements to decorate the hat are included in this lesson, *Glory Remembered Wooden Headgear of Alaska Sea Hunters*, page 51.



Another option for the Chugach boy puppet- A headband to resemble the male Eyak headband made out of plastic band, covered with leather and adorned with feathers and stamped with bear prints.



A completed boy's vest, using the pattern in this lesson

The vest is embellished with stamps and a 14" x ½" piece of fur. Velcro is attached to the top of vest for closure.



A Chugach boy puppet with a traditional nose pin

A nose pin was worn by both men and women. The septum of the nose was traditionally pierced shortly after birth. The nose pin shown here is actually a porcupine quill.



A finished Chugach boy puppet adorned with all the regalia.





A few of the students that attended Mt. Eccles Culture week showing their finished puppets dressed in traditional Chugach clothing. Each student designed their puppet's clothing and each one was different. Aren't they just adorable?!