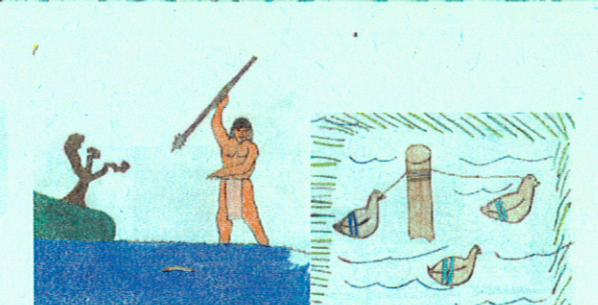
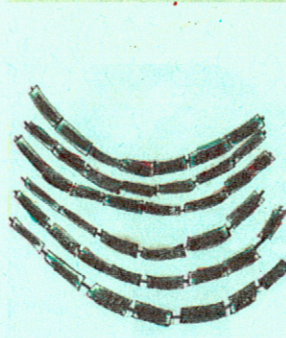
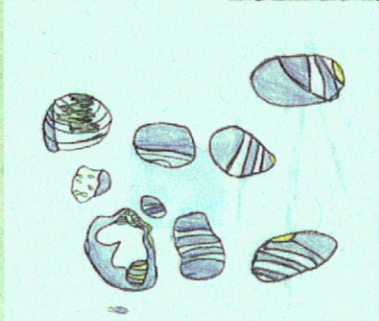
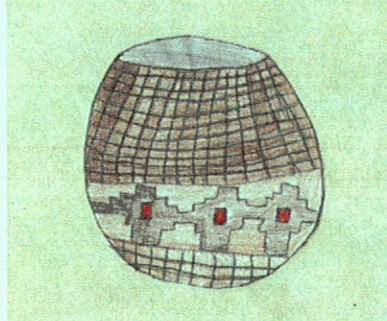




Native American Living
An Expeditionary Learning Project by
the Students of Room 15

Pottenger School





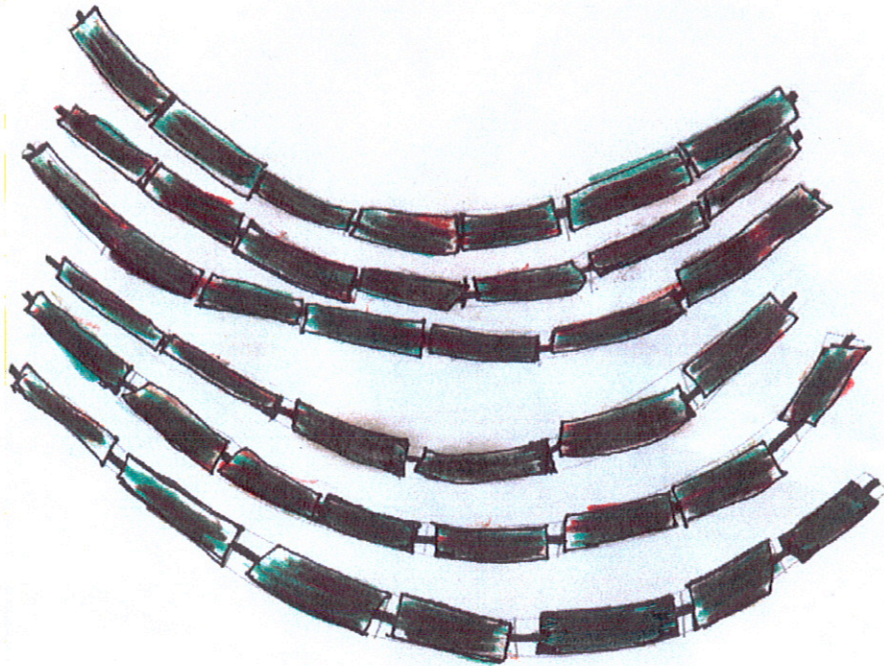
Today we use clothing to show style and to express ourselves. We wear shirts, pants, shoes, and shorts. Girls also wear beautiful dresses, skirts, boots, or leggings, and jewelry. The clothes we wear today are usually made from cotton. During summertime, the weather is warmer, so we might wear capri pants, tank tops, and flip flops or sandals.

In Native American times, people didn't need much clothing for hot summers. You would wear a breech cloth with a belt to tie it around your waist if you were a boy. If you were a girl, you might wear a skirt that is made of animal skin. Your mother would tan the skin, and stretch it to make it lighter. You would go barefoot and maybe wear a deerskin pouch so you can carry things with you.

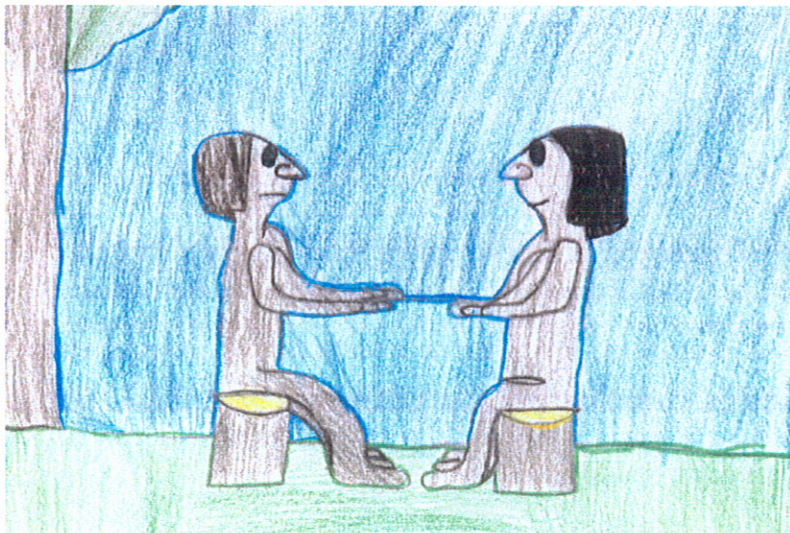


Today we use winter clothes to keep us warm while we show off style. We might wear long-sleeved shirts, long jeans, boots, sneakers, and underclothes. We use sweaters, sweatshirts, and coats or jackets for an extra layer of warmth and comfort. Our winter materials are wool, leather, polyester, or cotton. These materials are made from animal skins or furs, or naturally grown fibers. We can weave fibers into thread to make thick materials that last and keep us warm. When we need new clothes, all we have to do is go to a store and buy some!

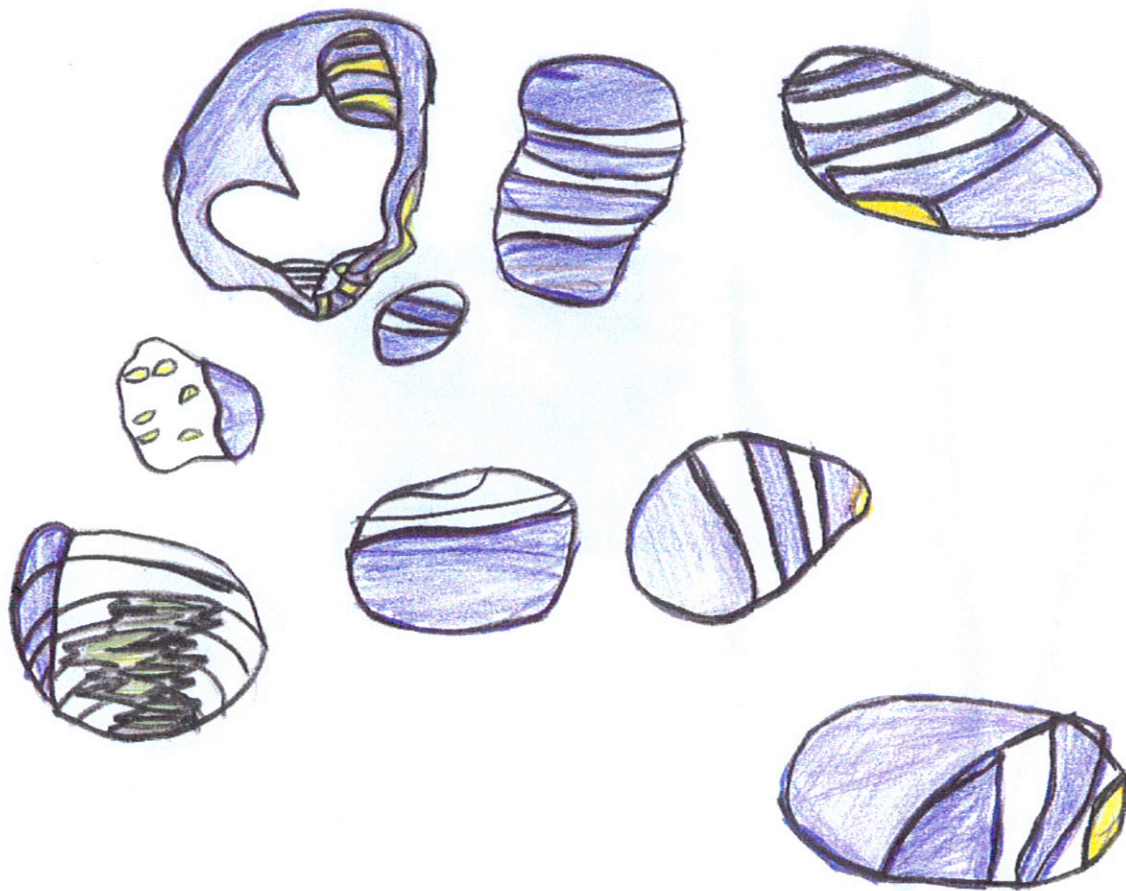
During their cold winters, Native Americans made all clothes and got materials from nature. They wore warm leggings with fur inside. They also wrap a blanket or animal hide over their shoulders. The women made these from the skins of seals, black bears, muskrats, squirrels, beavers, or wolves. They wore moccasins to keep their feet warm. Sometimes they would also wear decorative jewelry made of bones, shells, stones, claws, and antlers.



This beautiful necklace is made of copper beads. This was the first metal used by Native Americans, but not all tribes had it. The Wampanoag people traded with people from other tribes. Let's say your tribe had a lot of wooden bowls and corn seed, and another tribe has lots of copper pots and stone. These tribes could trade their extra goods for those items that they don't have. Because different places have different natural resources, they each could make different tools and clothes. Native Americans would travel on far journeys to make trades like these.



In Native American times, they traded fur. They traded it for marriage and for making clothing. Fur is still used today but it is used differently. They use it to make fur coats. Fur today is rare, so it is expensive to buy.



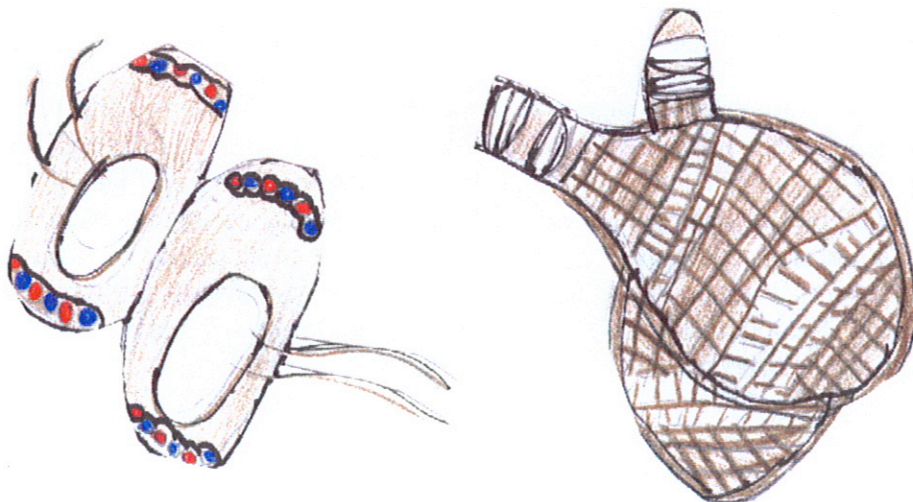
Today, the money we use is like the wampum Native Americans traded with. We buy things using paper money called dollars and coins. Today we don't trade to get what we need, we shop using money.

The Native Americans used wampum for trading, and for decorative jewelry. It had a beautiful purple color because it was made from shells of oysters and clams. These shells have a nice purple color on their insides.

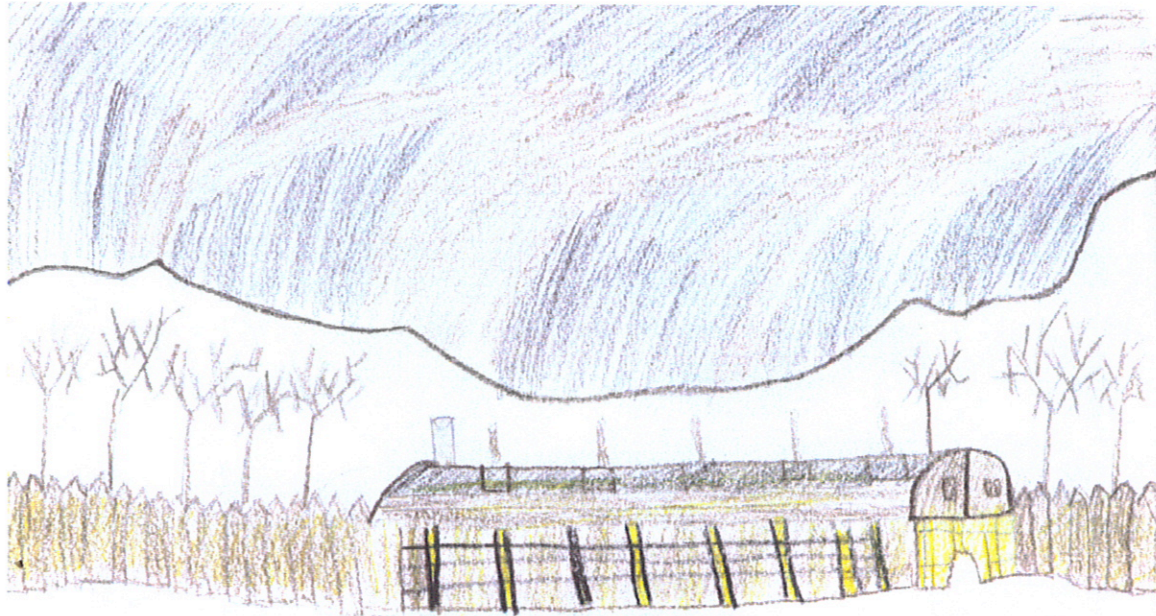


Today we mostly use boats for fun. We use paddle boats, cruise ships, canoes, kayaks, inflatable boats, ferry boats, yachts, and rafts. Today we buy boats instead of making them, and many boats have motors which allow them to travel very quickly on water.

Back then, canoes were made by burning the center of a tree trunk and scraping away the dead wood inside. Native Americans used the boats to travel on the water. They didn't have cars or electricity, so transportation was much more difficult than it is today.

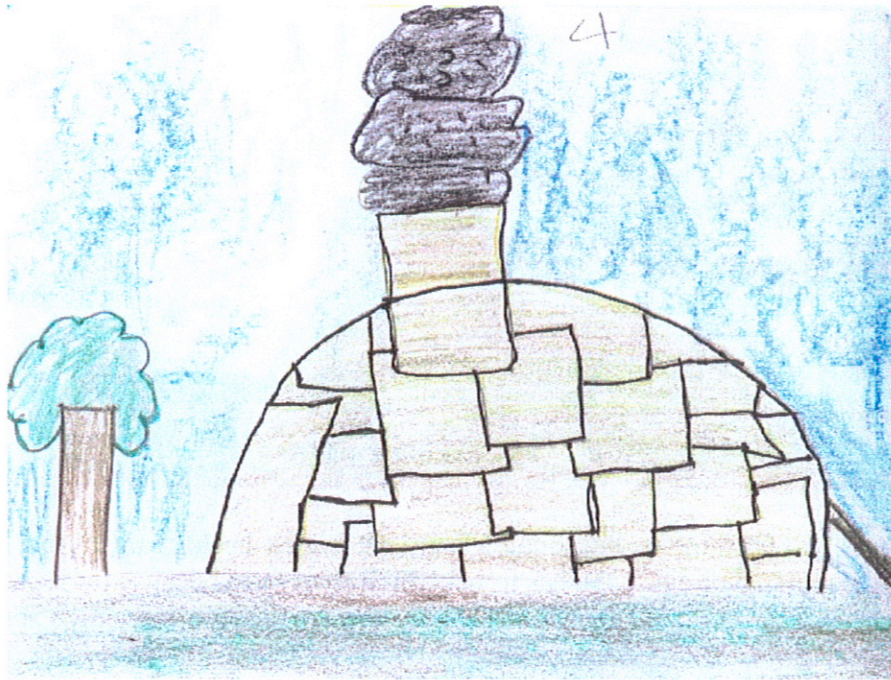


Because there was no other way, Native Americans did a lot of walking. They would protect their feet when they hunted in the forests by wearing moccasins. During snowy winters, they would wear these snow shoes to prevent them from sinking into deep snow.



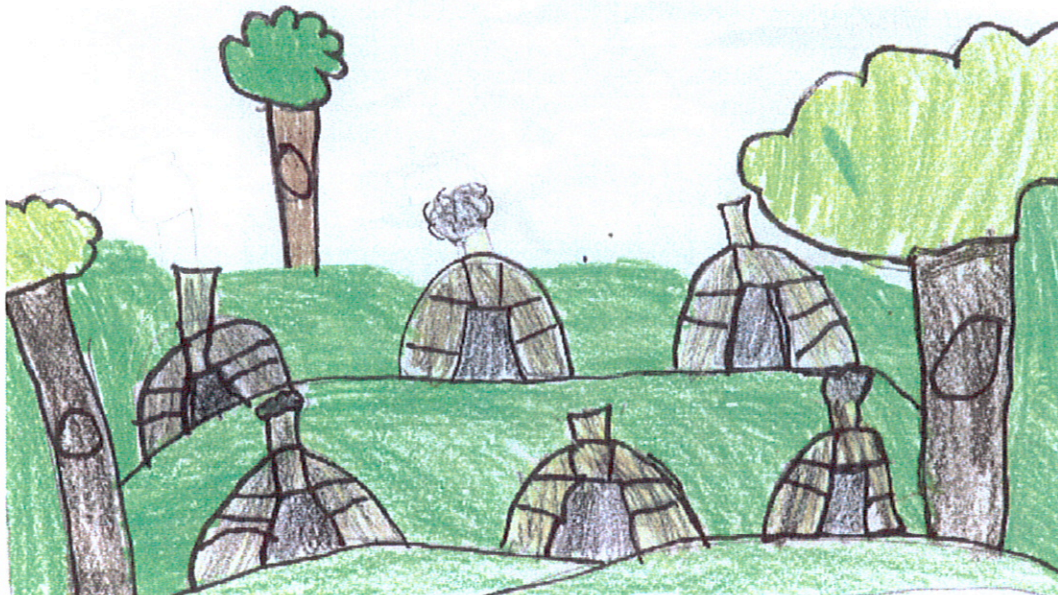
Today people build houses or have them built by professional builders. Houses are made out of wood, nails, and many other materials. Our houses are filled with doors, windows, and furniture like beds, rugs, chairs, and even pictures in picture frames. Today our houses are big and they can have more than one floor. Stairs and elevators help us get to the top floors and our houses have closets filled with clothes. Our kitchens have metal forks and many different cooking and serving tools. Every house has a bathroom and bathtub right inside the house. We keep all of our belongings in our house.

Long ago, Native Americans lived in different houses during the different seasons. During winter time, tribes would build longhouses to live in through the coldest part of year. Your family would join with other relatives to make a special winter village. Men would take out the saplings and bark they saved from the spring and use it to build with. They would make a longhouse, which is big enough to be shared with aunts, uncles, and cousins. Women would then work to line the inside walls with mats to keep everyone warm. Each family would build their own fire for cooking and warmth. The longhouse has more holes in its roof because of the extra fires.



Today people paint large, wood houses. Our houses are sturdy and strong, and they last for a long time. Most people don't build their houses by themselves either. They hire builders or buy a house that is already built.

The Native Americans lived in wetus during the summer and spring months. They would build this shelter out of saplings, or baby trees. First, they would trim off the branches and dig holes in the ground to place the trees in and hold them in place. They would bend the sapling over and tie them together using cords, vines, or animals skins. They covered this frame they made with bark or mats made from weaved grasses. They would leave an opening for a door, and another in the top of the wetu to let smoke out from their fires.





People still farm today, but today's farms are bigger because they grow food for many, many people. Not everyone has to have their own farm because they can buy food at stores instead of growing their own. American farmers harvest their crops and ship them to grocery stores and markets around the country. Today, the food from one farm can feed many people in many places. Farming is also easier today because we have tools that can help us to put seeds in the ground and dig things out. We have big tractors that can clear large fields and make less work for people.

Long ago, corn was the biggest Native American crop. Native American farmers would grow corn in fields and harvest crops to make corn bread, cooked corn for stews, corn meals, and many other kinds of foods. Children helped by working as scarecrows to protect the crops. Women did most of the cooking.





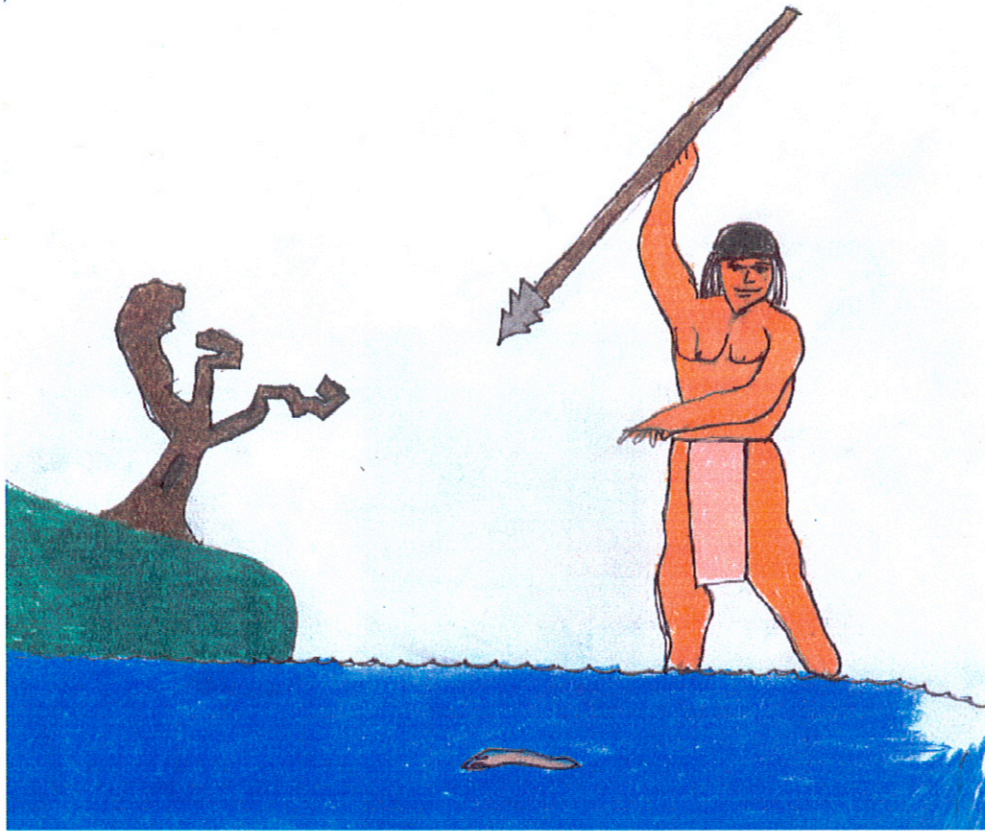
These foods probably look familiar to you. We eat corn, beans, and squash today with many of our traditional American meals. These foods are harvested on farms and sold in grocery stores, markets, or farm stands. Corn on the cob is delicious with melted butter!

The three sisters were an important part of Native American crops. They were corn, squash, and beans. Native Americans made many, many different foods using these three important crops.



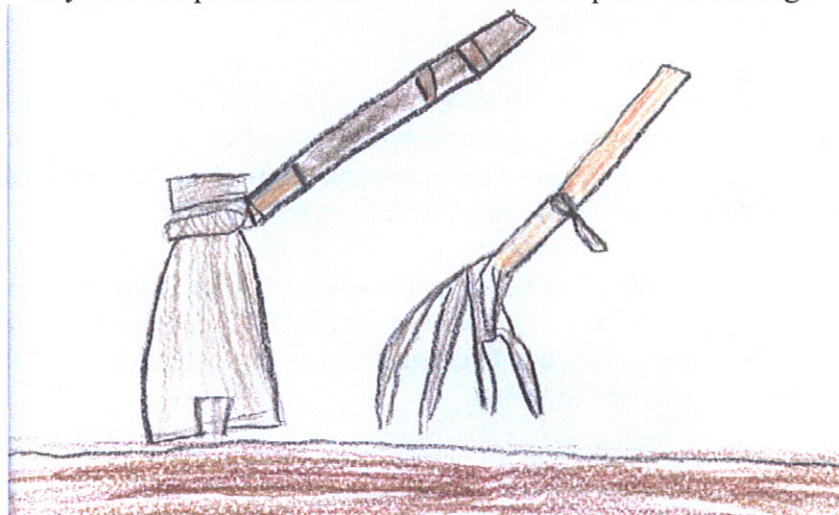
People today mostly hunt for fun and they use a gun as a tool. They compete in hunting contests to see who the best hunter is. They hunt as an activity when there is nothing else to do. When people go hunting they do not use arrows, they use guns. When we go hunting, we have to pick up supplies to hunt with.

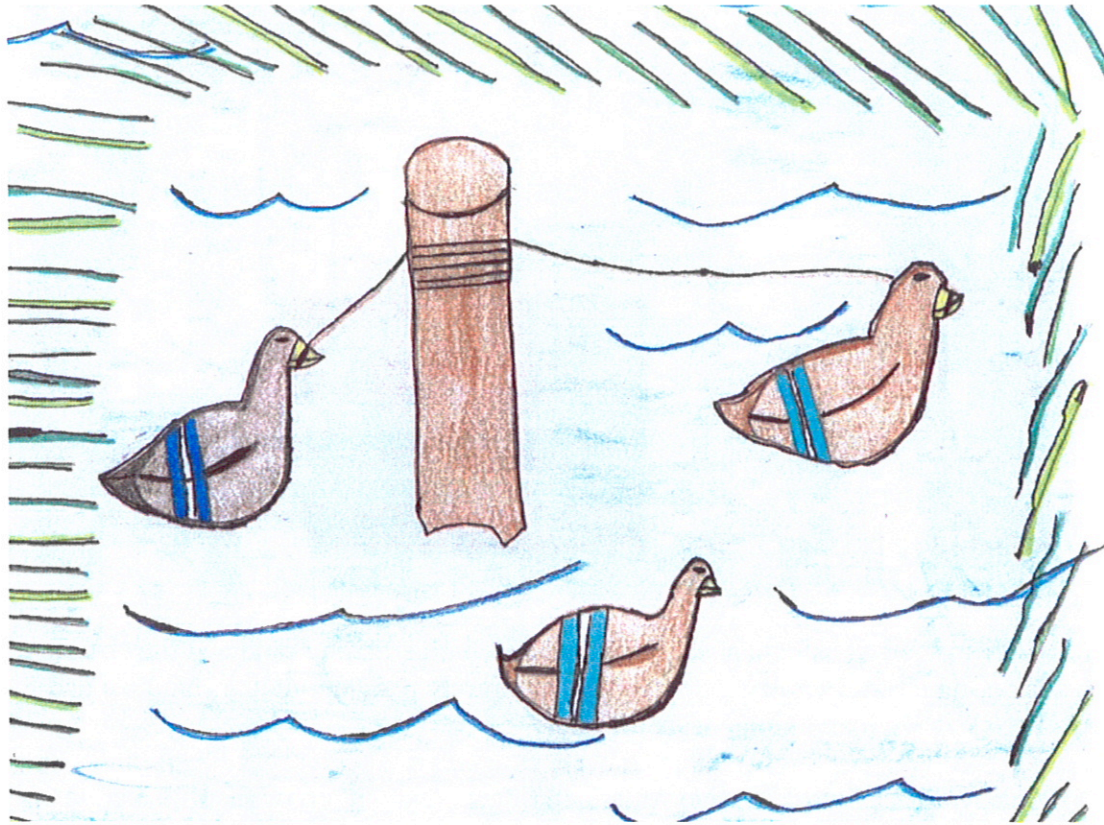
In the winter it was hard to get food. When the Pequots hunted, it was hard to get animals because it was not easy to hunt with bows and blunt arrows. They also used sharp arrows for hunting different animals. Sometimes the animals could get away from the arrows, so Native Americans had to wait patiently.



Today instead of using a spear, we catch fish with a fishing pole and they catch fish in a lake or a river. People eat fish today. We rarely paddle today, instead we use motors. People drive many kinds of motor boats.

Tools were used in the Native American times. Did you know that the Native Americans got their tools from nature? They carved stuff with stone knives. They were really creative with what they had around them. Stone was not the only material used to make tools. They carved spears with rocks and used the spears for fishing.





Today, not very many people go hunting. People who do hunt do it for fun, and not because they need to for survival. People who hunt today use guns and traps. Deer and ducks are popular hunting targets today. Because animals are endangered, there are laws to protect certain animals from being hunted.

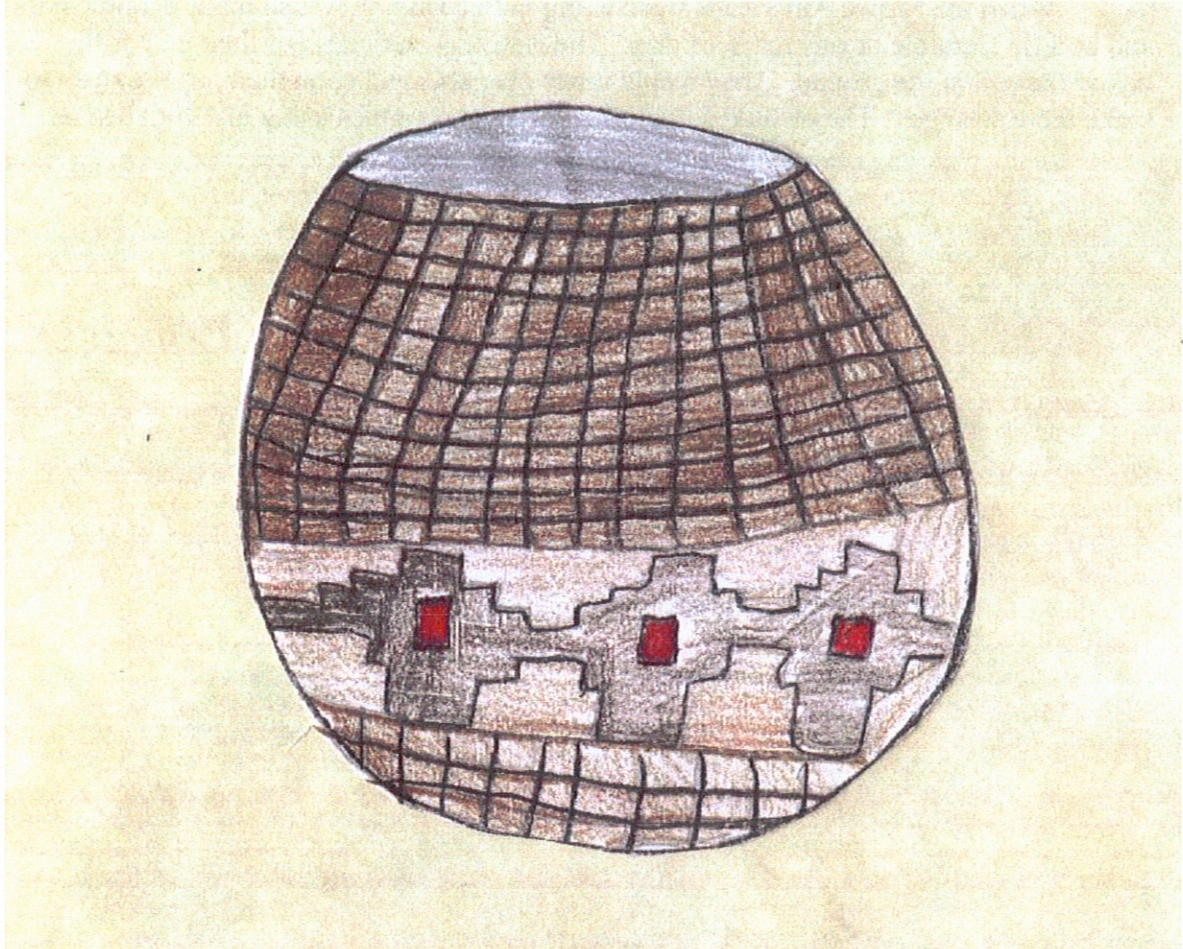
Long ago, Native Americans needed to hunt wildlife in order to survive. When they killed an animal, they would use every part they could. Wild ducks were caught as a meal for Native Americans. They would catch the ducks by placing traps in the water and letting the ducks swim right in them!



Today people buy meals; they don't need to hunt for food. Today people can go to a restaurant and sit down while other people serve them food. People today can cook meals very quickly because of the ovens, microwaves, and running water that help the kitchen run smoothly. People can buy their food from a store instead of gathering it or hunting for it. We cook on a microwave or on a grill. Today people keep cold food in the refrigerator.



Long ago, Native Americans made their own meals using an open fire and pots that they made themselves from natural clay. Native Americans would made meals using the vegetables they called “the three sisters”: corn, beans, and squash. They would also gather nuts and berries, or hunt for animal meat. It would take a lot of preparing and time, but Native Americans could cook delicious meals, just like us!

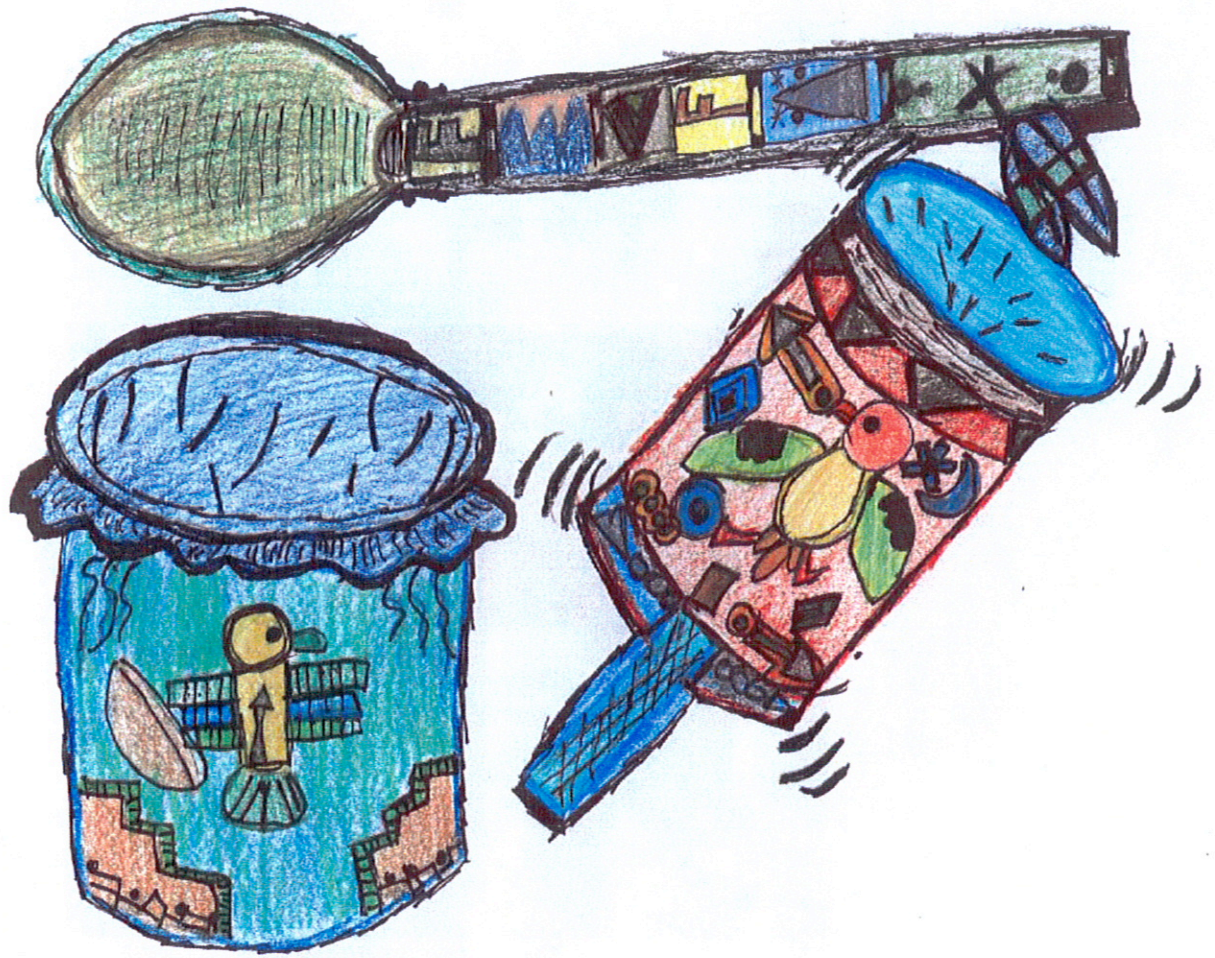


Today people create crafts using pens, markers, crayons, paintbrushes, and colored pencils. Many people love making different kinds of crafts. Some are for decoration, while others have important uses. People can go to stores to buy art supplies for craft making. We use different baskets today to store books, clothes, food, and more.

Native American mothers also made baskets out of grasses or tree bark. She would use these baskets to carry squash and beans from the garden. Native Americans made baskets in all different styles and sizes. The baskets could carry a lot of things.

When the Native Americans were living in this land, they also made ceramic pots and bowls. Ceramic means made of clay. The Native Americans got their clay from below the soil in the ground. They would made clay pots and cook them, or fire them to make them stronger. They would sometimes paint the ceramics using ink from berries.





Music is a big part of life today. We listen to many different styles of music, like rap, country, pop, rock, classical, and more. Music can express people's feelings and beliefs. We love the music of our time and of long ago.

Native Americans made music, too. They made all of their own instruments. They played flutes made of wood, drums, rattles, and more. They would apply their craft skills to decorating the instruments with beautiful tribal symbols.



A Mastodon (extinct)

Animals today are different from animals long ago. Today animals don't really roam free in Springfield. The animals we see are in zoos, museums, or they are house pets. Some of the animals we see a lot are cats, dogs, birds, or snakes. The animals that are pets need to be taken care of by people, so they can't really survive on their own.

Long ago, you could see mastodons, giant beavers, or dire wolves. Dire wolves were larger and more powerful than the modern gray wolf, and he was a meat eater. A mastodon was like a woolly mammoth with tusks, and a giant beaver was much bigger and stronger from the beaver we know today also. The Native Americans saw different animals than we do today, and they used animals for different reasons, like hunting. Many animals that were common to Native Americans are now extinct, or endangered. Extinct means that all of that kind of animal has died out and there are no more left. Great mastodons, giant beavers, and dire wolves are all extinct today.