

INDIGENOUS ANIMAL CRAFTS!



PACIFIC NORTHWEST INDIGENOUS ART

Pacific Northwest Art of Indigenous People

The First Nations people of the Pacific Northwest, such as the Haida, Tlingit, and Tsimshian, have a rich culture filled with beautiful art. Their art honors nature, family, and traditions.

Animal imagery can be found in many different kinds of art, like totem poles, carvings, paintings, and storytelling. This imagery can be used to represent different values, spiritual beliefs, and family stories.

Key Features of Pacific Northwest Art:

- **Bold lines and shapes:** Artists use thick black outlines with bright colors or natural wood.
- **Animal Symbols:** Animal imagery is often used with each animal carrying a special meaning.
- **Balance and Symmetry:** Many pieces of art are carefully made to look even on both sides, showing balance in nature.
- **Storytelling:** The art tells stories about family or clan history, beliefs, or lessons learned. There is a deep respect for the natural world, with animals playing a big part in explaining life, teaching lessons, and connecting with the Earth.

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ART EXAMPLES



Totem Pole



Namgis Thunderbird Transformation Mask



ANIMAL SYMBOLISM

bear: *bravery* - the ability to do something even though you are afraid

beaver: *resourcefulness* - using what you have to solve problems

bee: *honesty* - telling the truth

blue jay: *renewal* - starting fresh again

buffalo: *respect* - treating yourself and others kindly, including nature and animals

coyote: *mischievous* - being playful and sometimes causing trouble

crab: *rebirth* - being born or starting again

deer: *sensitivity* - being kind and understanding of others' feelings

eagle: *strength* - being strong in your body or mind

fox: *adaptability* - being able to change and fit into new situations

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heron: *experience, and good judgment*

rabbit: *abundance* - having a lot of something

raven: *creation* - making something new

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CRAFT DIRECTIONS



Description:

These crafts are inspired by traditional animal art by Indigenous people in the Pacific Northwest.

Materials:

- body template (included)
- body art craft pieces (included, optional)
- construction paper (optional)
- crayons, markers, or paint (& paint brushes)
- scissors
- glue
- brainstorming sheet (included, optional)
- writing projects (included, optional)

Suggestion: Print templates on cardstock for extra durability.

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salmon



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The owl is known for its wisdom and ability to see in the dark. Wisdom comes from listening, learning, and thinking before we act. When we are wise, we...

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Cultural information, animal symbols guide, and craft directions included!



Each animal includes a completed example, body template, and body art craft pieces!



Create unique designs with individual craft pieces!
Or draw, paint, color, or use construction paper!

Beaver - Example



Bee - Example



Coyote - Example



Crab - Example



Fox - Example



Frog - Example



Salmon - Example



Thunderbird - Example



Students can choose from 27 different creatures!

INFORMATIVE BRAINSTORM

Topic:	
Fact:	Detail:
Fact:	Detail:
Fact:	Detail:
Conclusion:	

frog
heron
hummingbird
kingfisher
loon

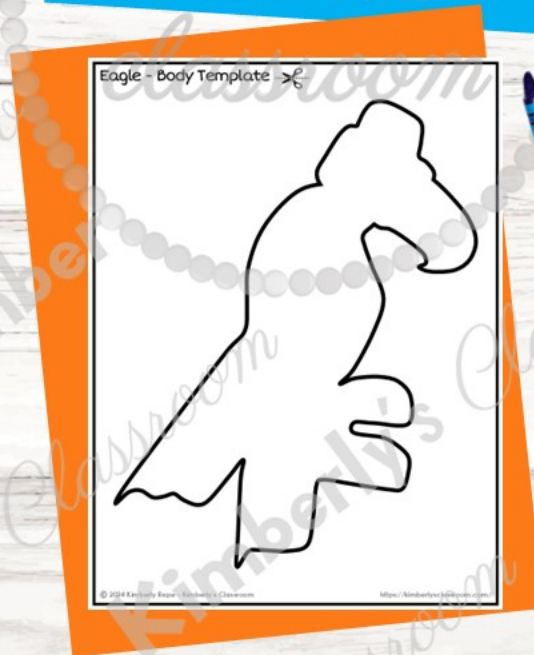
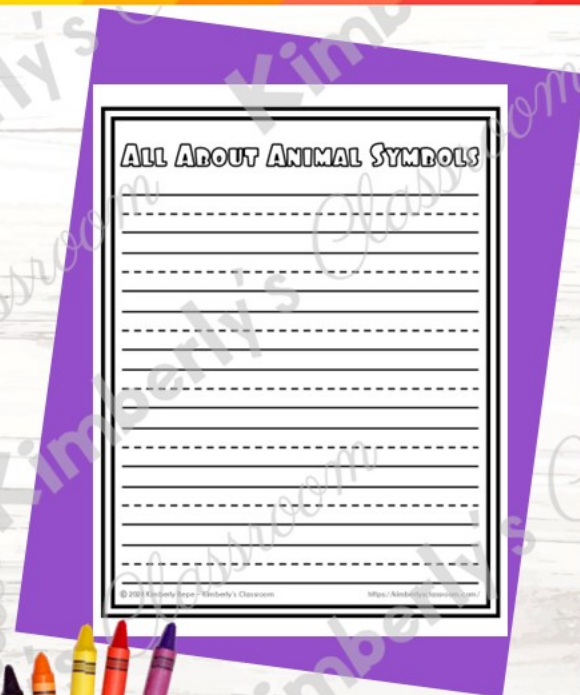
I chose the _____
I chose the _____
I chose the _____

I chose the _____ because _____
I chose the _____ because _____
I chose the _____ because _____

MY ANIMAL SYMBOL

ANIMALS IN NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURES

Add a writing project! Students can use the informative brainstorming guide to get started!



If you like this craft, you may also enjoy
these Indigenous resources!

