

NATIVE AMERICAN TOTEM POLES!



First, I chose the
thunderbird

Next, I chose the
bear

Then, I chose the
beaver

I also chose the
fox

Finally, I chose the
owl

Name: _____

TOTEM POLES

Totem poles are big, tall sculptures made by Native Americans. They are made from trees and tell stories about the history of families and tribes. Totem poles can have different animals, plants and people carved into them.

1) Who made
☐ African Americans
☐ Asian Americans

2) Why were
☐ to get around
☐ to tell stories

3) What can
☐ animals
☐ plants

Name: _____

TOTEM POLE VOCABULARY

Directions: Choose the best definition for each vocabulary word.

1) totem pole ☐ a musical instrument
☐ tall, wooden artwork that tells stories
☐ art made by shaping or carving
☐ group of animals
☐ things that happened in the past
☐ very loud sound
☐ people who are related or care for each other
☐ long line of colorful cars
☐ going to a place from the beginning
☐ center of a storm
☐ see someone special
☐ and shape something
☐ group of people who live together and share the same traditions
☐ garden tool

Name: _____

TOTEM POLE SENTENCES

Directions: Look at the sentences below. Rewrite each sentence correctly. Begin each sentence with a capital letter and add punctuation.

totem poles are tall sculptures made by native americans they are made from trees they tell stories about the history of families and tribes

☐ I used capital letters.
☐ I used spaces.
☐ I used punctuation.

WHAT IS A TOTEM POLE?

Totem poles were monuments created by Native Americans to represent and honor ancestry, history, people, or events.

Most totem poles represent beings or crest animals, representing a family's lineage and the privileges that the family held. They often served to document historical stories familiar to community members, families, or clan members.



Totem poles usually include symbolic human, animal, and supernatural forms. The variance of totem pole styles reflects the rich diversity of the histories and cultures that created them.

Page 1



The average totem pole is between 10-70ft high. Most of the poles were made from cedar wood, which lasted about 100 years.



Page 2

NATIVE AMERICAN SYMBOL MEANINGS

owl: knowing a lot, making something with moving quietly without

rabbit: feeling really happy, beautiful things, water, safe

squirrel: being ready, what's happening around, creative solutions to

thunderbird: being safe

wolf: sticking with ones, trying your best, knowing something

badger: being brave and believing yourself

bear: being strong and able to do

beaver: not giving up when things and being kept safe

deer: caring about how others feel, calm, and moving in a beautiful

fox: being smart, able to move, able to solve problems

frog: making something clean, attention to how things feel, able to change or adjust

moose: living for a long time, making good choices, staying, not giving up

otter: having fun, being silly, helping others

NATIVE AMERICAN SYMBOL MEANINGS

badger: courage, confidence

bear: healing, power, strength

beaver: determination, protection

deer: compassion, peace, gracefulness

fox: cunningness, agility, diplomacy

frog: cleansing, sensitivity, adaptability

moose: longevity, wisdom, steadfastness

otter: playfulness, friendliness, helpfulness

owl: wisdom, intuition, stealth

rabbit: joyfulness, artistic, vigilance

squirrel: preparedness, awareness, resourcefulness

thunderbird: power, protection, strength

wolf: loyalty, perseverance, intuition

TOTEM POLE CRAFT DIRECTIONS

Create a totem pole that represents you and/or your family members' personalities.

There are 13 animals for you to choose from, each that symbolize different traits. Select 5 of these animals.

Cut out each animal, along with the totem pole base (H) and optional grass pieces (C, D).

Glue the base at the bottom of a large sheet of construction paper. (You may need 2 pieces of paper.) Then, stack and glue the 5 animals in a vertical column, placing the largest animal (A, B, or E) at the top (if selected).

Then complete the writing assignment and glue or staple it to your construction paper. Now it is ready to display!

CRAFT DIRECTIONS

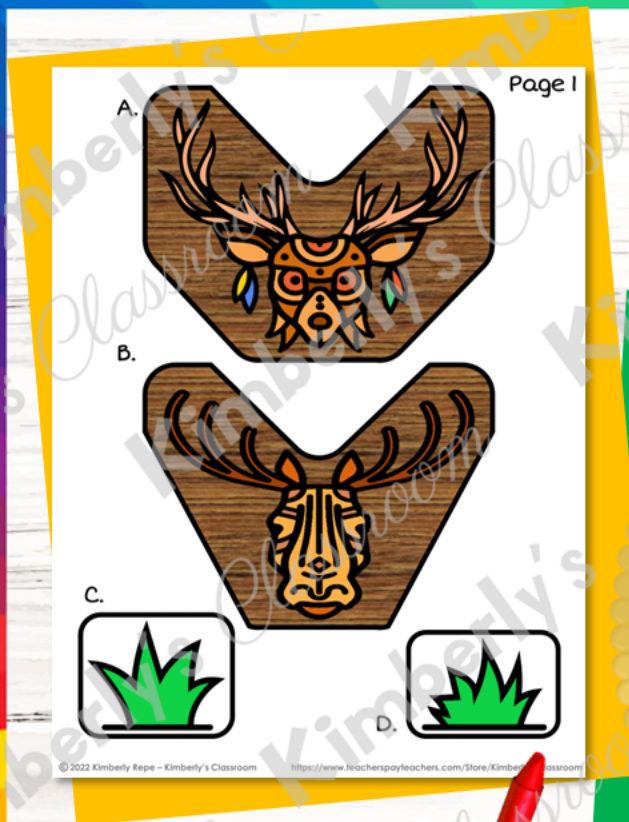
- | | | | |
|----------|----------------|-----------|-------------|
| A. deer | E. thunderbird | I. owl | M. wolf |
| B. moose | F. fox | J. beaver | N. badger |
| C. grass | G. bear | K. otter | O. squirrel |
| D. grass | H. base | L. frog | P. rabbit |

Example



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Cultural information, symbol guide, and craft directions included!



Students can choose 5 animals that best represent themselves, or their family members' traits!



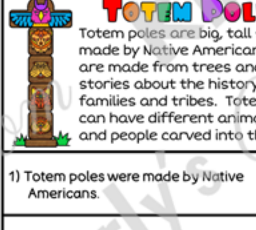
Differentiated writing projects!

Name: _____ Native American Heritage L2



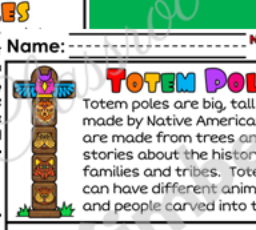
- TOTEM POLES**
- Totem poles are big, tall sculptures made by Native Americans. They are made from trees and tell stories about the history of families and tribes. Totem poles can have different animals and people carved into them.
- Totem poles were made by Native Americans.
 - Totem poles were made for people to live in.
 - Totem poles may have animals carved into them.
 - Most totem poles were carved by computers.
 - Totem poles were originally created for sporting events.

Name: _____ Native American Heritage L2



- TOTEM POLES**
- Totem poles are big, tall sculptures made by Native Americans. They are made from trees and tell stories about the history of families and tribes. Totem poles can have different animals, plants, and people carved into them.
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- Totem poles were made by Native Americans. ☐ true ☐ false
 - Totem poles were made for people to live in. ☐ true ☐ false
 - Totem poles may have animals carved into them. ☐ true ☐ false

Name: _____ Native American Heritage L2



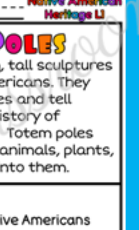
- TOTEM POLES**
- Totem poles are big, tall sculptures made by Native Americans. They are made from trees and tell stories about the history of families and tribes. Totem poles can have different animals and people carved into them.
- Who made totem poles?
 - Why were totem poles made?
 - What can totem poles have carved into them?

Name: _____ Native American Heritage L2



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- Who made totem poles? ☐ African Americans ☐ Native Americans ☐ Asian Americans ☐ Hispanic Americans
 - Why were totem poles made? ☐ to get animals ☐ to make bread ☐ to tell stories ☐ to live in
 - What can totem poles have carved into them? ☐ animals ☐ people ☐ plants ☐ all of these

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Name: _____ Native American Heritage L2

- TOTEM POLE VOCABULARY**
- Directions: Choose the best definition for each vocabulary word.
- totem pole ☐ a musical instrument ☐ tall, wooden artwork ☐ art made by shaping ☐ a group of animals
 - sculpture ☐ things that happen ☐ a very loud sound ☐ people who are together ☐ a long line of color
 - history ☐ belonging to a place ☐ the center of a story ☐ to go see someone together and share ☐ a long garden tool
 - family ☐ a group of people who share the same traditions ☐ a long garden tool
 - native ☐ to go see someone together and share ☐ a long garden tool
 - carve ☐ a group of people who share the same traditions ☐ a long garden tool
 - tribe ☐ to go see someone together and share ☐ a long garden tool

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Name: _____ Native American Heritage L2

- TOTEM POLE SENTENCES**
- Directions: Look at the sentences below. Rewrite each sentence correctly. Begin each sentence with a capital letter and add punctuation.
- totem poles are big, tall sculptures made by native americans they are made from trees and tell stories about the history of families and tribes totem poles can have animals, plants, and people carved into them
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Name: _____ Native American Heritage L2

- TOTEM POLE SENTENCES**
- Directions: Rewrite each sentence correctly. Begin each sentence with a capital letter and add punctuation.
- what is a totem pole
 - totem poles tell stories about history
 - can you see the beautiful carvings

Name: _____ Native American Heritage L2

- TOTEM POLE SENTENCES**
- Directions: Rewrite each sentence correctly. Begin each sentence with a capital letter and add punctuation.
- what is a totem pole
 - totem poles tell stories about history
 - can you see the beautiful carvings

Differentiated worksheets to build confidence!



Name: _____ Native American Heritage L2

TOTEM POLES

Totem poles are big, tall sculptures made by Native Americans. They are made from trees and tell stories about the history of families and tribes. Totem poles can have different animals, plants, and people carved into them.

1) Who made totem poles?

2) Why were totem poles made?

3) What can totem poles have carved into them?

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ALL ABOUT TOTEM POLES

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budger

bear

beaver

deer

fox

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First, I chose the

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Name: **ANSWER KEY** Native American Heritage L1



TOTEM POLES

Totem poles are big, tall sculptures made by Native Americans. They are made from trees and tell stories about the history of families and tribes. Totem poles can have different animals, plants, and people carved into them.

1) Who made totem poles?

- ☐ African Americans ☒ Native Americans
☐ Asian Americans ☐ Hispanic Americans

2) Why were totem poles made?

- ☐ to get animals ☐ to make bread
☒ to tell stories ☐ to live in

3) What can totem poles have carved into them?

- ☐ animals ☐ people
☐ plants ☒ all of these

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Name: **ANSWER KEY** Native American Heritage L2

TOTEM POLE SENTENCES

Directions: Look at the sentences below. Rewrite each sentence correctly. Begin each sentence with a capital letter and add punctuation.

totem poles are tall sculptures made by native americans they are made from trees they tell stories about the history of families and tribes

Totem poles are tall sculptures made by Native Americans. They are made from trees. They tell stories about the history of families and tribes.

- ☒ I used capital letters.
☒ I used spaces.
☒ I used punctuation.



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Name: **ANSWER KEY** Native American Heritage L3

TOTEM POLE VOCABULARY

Directions: Choose the best definition for each vocabulary word.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1) totem pole | ☐ a musical instrument
☒ tall, wooden artwork that tells stories |
| 2) sculpture | ☒ art made by shaping or carving
☐ a group of animals |
| 3) history | ☒ things that happened in the past
☐ a very loud sound |
| 4) family | ☒ people who are related or care for each other
☐ a long line of colorful cars |
| 5) native | ☒ belonging to a place from the beginning
☐ the center of a storm |
| 6) carve | ☐ to go see someone special
☒ to cut and shape something |
| 7) tribe | ☒ a group of people who live together and share the same traditions
☐ a long garden tool |

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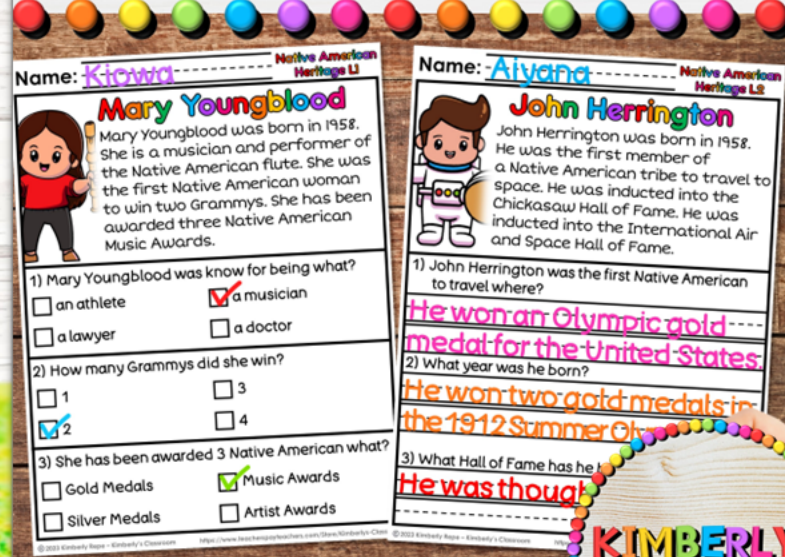
Answer keys included for quick and easy assessment!

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DIFFERENTIATED WRITING CRAFT NATIVE AMERICAN BUFFALO HIDE ART



DIFFERENTIATED READING COMPREHENSION NATIVE AMERICAN READING COMP!



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