

# Harrison Begay Sr.

## NAVAJO ILLUSTRATOR CULTURAL EXPLORATION

### WHAT WE LEARNED:

- Harrison Begay Sr. was a Navajo artist, and we learned about his life and work.
- We learned the terms: Navajo, Diné, Dinétah, 4 Sacred Mountains, Hogan, Bosque Redondo, Navajo Code Talkers, and Signal Corps.
- We discussed the characteristics of his art: limited background and perspective, flat color fields, little to no shading, and pastel color palette.
- We identified places important to Harrison Begay.

### ART ACTIVITY: CLAY HOGAN

We sculpted a clay hogan, a traditional Navajo house.

### CONNECTIONS AT HOME:

- [The Hogan explained](#)
- [Navajo Grandma introducing the Navajo culture and traditions](#)
- [Grand Entry at 2018 Navajo Nation Powwow](#)
- [Navajo History](#)
- [Navajo Facts](#)



## FOR PARENTS

Learning about how other people groups think and live is critical to developing understanding, humility, and compassion. In this lesson, we focused on the Navajo tribe; although we've included resources to learn about other native American tribes. The arts of the Navajo people are reflective of the materials and ingenuity of the creators. Read the books and watch some of the videos from the **Further Reading** section (page 2) together with your child, recognizing the circumstances and beliefs may be different from your family.

## FURTHER READING:

- *Growing Up in a Native American Homeland: American Girls Collection: Welcome to Kaya's World 1764* (Nimiipuu-Nez Perce Tribe, Idaho, Washington, Oregon) *Welcome to Kirsten's World 1854* (Dakota and Ojibway Tribes in Minnesota, etc.)
- *First Laugh, Welcome Baby* by Tahe and Flood
- *Ten Little Rabbits* by Grossman and Long
- *How the Stars Fell into the Sky: A Navajo Legend* by Jerrie Oughton
- *The Water Lady: How Darlene Arviso Helps a Thirsty Nation* by Alice McGinty
- *The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses; Storm Maker's Tipi; Mystic Horse* by Paul Goble
- *Chester Nez and the Unbreakable Code: A Navajo Code Talker's Story* by Joseph Bruchac
- *The Navajo* by Rennay Craats
- *A Boy Named Beckoning: The True Story of Dr. Carlos Montezuma, Native American Hero* by Gina Capaldi
- *Red Bird Sings: The Story of Zitkala-Sa* by Capaldi/Pearce
- *World Myths and Legends: 25 Projects You Can Build Yourself* by Kathy Ceceri (pg. 102-103-Three Sisters Garden and Succotash)

Due to the changing nature of web resources, M&G strongly urges you as the parent to preview these sites before your child accesses them. The fact that these sites are available on this handout does not imply that M&G endorses their content from the standpoint of morals, philosophy, theology, or scientific hypotheses.

## WEAVING PROJECT

Your child will enjoy making this artwork. Navajo women are expert weavers. Try this art activity to make a connection.

### Materials:

- 1 piece of watercolor paper
- Watercolor paints
- Paintbrush
- Cup for water
- Sharpie marker
- Scissors
- 1 piece of construction paper (example uses black)

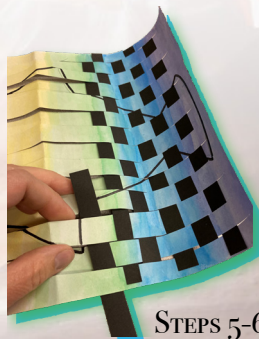
### Directions:

1. Paint a piece of watercolor paper in your favorite colors.
2. After it dries, draw an animal or object.
3. Fold your paper in half.
4. Cut slits from the folded edge, taking care not to cut all the way off the other side. (In example, don't cut through the edge that is red or purple, but leave 1 cm. on each side.)
5. Choose a solid color of construction paper to cut into 1 cm strips.
6. Weave the strips over and under.

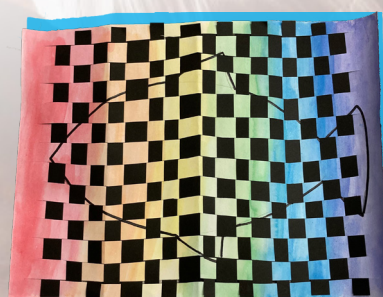
STEPS 1-4



STEPS 5-6



FINISHED PROJECT





## SOUTHWESTERN AGAMOGRAPH

An agamograph is an art form that creates optical illusions. Try creating one! For more info, reference these resources: [Monument Valley Regional Middle School Art Class](#) and [Babble Dabble Do](#).

### Materials:

- 2 sheets of 9"x12" watercolor paper
- Watercolor paints
- Paintbrush
- Cup for water
- 12"x18" sheet construction paper
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Scissors
- School glue

### Directions:

1. Paint two southwest-style pictures on watercolor paper.
2. After they dry, using the pencil and ruler, mark out and cut the southwest paintings into vertical 1 in. strips.  
(Note you may want to trim each strip a little more than 1 in. so that it can easily be placed for gluing.)
3. Take a 12"x18" sheet of construction paper and using the ruler, mark out lines 1 inch apart.
4. Fold the construction paper accordion-style along the lines.
5. Glue all the strips in proper order from your first painting on the left sides of the accordion folds and glue all the strips in proper order from your second painting on the right sides of the folds. (In example, blue strips are on the left and the peach are on the right.)
6. Once dry, set your agamograph on a desk and walk past it, seeing how it changes based on your viewpoint.



STEP 1



STEP 1



STEP 2



STEPS 3 & 4



STEP 5



STEP 5

**M&G EDUCATIONAL MISSION**

Through tours, events, and publications, the Museum & Gallery seeks to partner with educators in fulfilling all of the National Visual Arts Content Standards. By integrating art into the core curriculum, M&G's goals are to teach children to value the arts, to communicate through the arts, to become creative problem solvers through the inclusion of STEAM-related concepts and fully-developed STEAM units, to understand history and culture in light of the arts, to improve literary interest and understanding through visual storytelling, to critique the arts, and to develop an aesthetic awareness of the arts. Through fulfilling the mission, M&G is able to help develop citizens who have the ability to think, feel, and understand the world in which they live.



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