

# Harrison Begay Sr.

## NAVAJO ILLUSTRATOR CULTURAL EXPLORATION

### WHAT WE LEARNED:

- Harrison Begay Sr. was a Navajo artist, and we discussed 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, which is a traditional Navajo house.

### CONNECTIONS AT HOME:

- [The Hogan explained](#)
- [Grand Entry at 2018 Navajo Nation Powwow](#)
- [Mark Sublette speaks on Native American Indian Jewelry: How to Identify Antique Ingot Navajo Jewelry](#)
- [President G. W. Bush honors Navajo Code Talkers](#)
- [History of Navajo Nation](#)



## 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:

- *Print It* by Amy Appleyard (There are many connections to the lesson. See pp. 20-22 for code making; pp. 38-40 for Southwest designs; pp. 41-43 for feather printing; pp. 70-73 for screen printed poster)
- *The Navajo* by Rennay Craats (includes interactive links)
- *Navajo Code Talkers* by Andrew Santella
- *Red Cloud: A Lakota Story of War and Surrender* by S. D. Nelson
- *First South Carolinians* by Kate and Jim Palmer
- *National Geographic Encyclopedia of American Indian History and Culture*
- *Stories from Native North America* by Linda Raczek (see pp. 28-33 for Navajo Creation story to compare and contrast to Biblical Creation story)
- *Native American Arts and Culture* by Brendan January
- *Turquoise Boy: A Navajo Legend* by Terri Cohlene
- *Thirteen Moons on Turtle's Back: A Native American Year of Moons* by Bruchac and London
- *American Indian Rights Movement* by Sarah Machajewski

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.

## MAKING A BEAD NECKLACE

For instructions and sample, visit [HERE](#). This website uses seed beads. You can also use pony beads, but the beads are much larger so your design would need to be simpler. (See photo for sample)



## WEAVING ON A LOOM

Weaving is almost as old as mankind—a necessary skill for creating fabrics to construct clothing. Try your hand at weaving. You can buy a simple wooden loom or use a potholder loom. Both loom types are available on Amazon for \$8-20. (See photo for sample)

### Materials:

- 1 piece of cardboard (8.5" x 11")
- String
- Various colored yarn
- Plastic needle

### Directions:

1. Make your own loom from cardboard and string by cutting a rectangle of cardboard, roughly 8.5"x11".
2. Along the two shorter edges of the cardboard, measure and mark a dot every 1/2", then make evenly placed 1/4"-deep snips.
3. Secure one end of the string by tying a knot, then inserting it into the first snip on the left top corner.





### Directions: (cont.)

4. Alternate the string end to end, wrapping it into the snipped notches until the whole board is covered, then fasten the end like you did the beginning—with a knot.
5. Use bright yarn to go from side to side using an over/under pattern through the strings. Take special care to loosely work at the far sides because the weaving will begin to pull in if wrapped too tightly.

STEP 2



STEP 3



STEP 4



STEP 4



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.



[www.bjuma.org](http://www.bjuma.org)