

## NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL BOX

- ED.90.6.17 Obsidian core and flakes demonstrating “flint knapping” techniques used by Native Americans to make arrowheads and other cutting tools before European contact when metal became commonly used. The Gabrielino Indians of Los Angeles county often traded with tribes from hundreds of miles away to get obsidian as it did not naturally occur in the area and made one of the sharpest stone points available in pre-contact times.
- ED.96.D.4 Miniature Hopi kachina (supernatural being) of carved and painted cottonwood of a style usually made for sale to tourists. This one is probably meant to represent a “Sun Kachina” (as per writing on the bottom of it). Kachinas were originally made as religious education tools for Hopi Indian children in Arizona to teach them the attributes of the various supernatural beings related to Hopi creation stories, etc.
- ED.2005.1.18 Native American dance anklet with bells of a type commonly used today at pow-wow dances. Sheepskin and sleigh bells (some bells are missing).
- ED.2005.1.173 Native American “dream catcher”, said to capture nightmares in its web. Made of a suede-wrapped metal hoop with a waxed linen thread web and feather and bead trim.
- ED.2005.20.3 Imitation turquoise and silver bracelet in the Southwestern “Indian” style. Typical of tourist trade items of the mid 1900s.
- ED.2006.1.20 Poster map of North American Indian tribes (showing larger and more well-known tribes) published in Cherokee, N.C. by Cherokee Publications, 1989.
- ED.2006.9.27 A poster showing how Navajo Indians use native plants to dye the wool used in making traditional blankets and rugs.
- ED.2006.9.35 Eight drilled deer teeth and one finished “hair pipe” style bead made of animal bone. Native Americans often used teeth as beads to ornament their clothing and to make necklaces, simply by drilling and stringing them. Fancier beads, such as the hair pipe one here, took a lot longer to make as bones left from cooking were drilled and polished to achieve the desired shapes. Large breastplates of hair pipe beads were often worn by Native American men on formal occasions and they were one way to advertise one’s prowess in hunting (as were elk or deer teeth decorations on their wives’ dresses)!
- ED.2006.9.37 This is a small bag of loose carved shell beads. Four of them have been shaped into birds, but the rest have been carved and drilled into small, cylindrical beads known as “heishi” (pronounced “hee-she”). These styles of beads were made in pre-historic times in the southwestern U.S.A. by Native Americans and are still popular and being made today as these show.
- ED.2006.9.38 a,b These are 2 fragments of Plains Indian beadwork showing different techniques used. (A) is a circular medallion with an 8-pointed star design. Seed beads have been appliquéd to a leather backing. (B) is a short tube of peyote stitch seed beads which form a solid network. This stitch was named for the fact that it was often used to cover the handles of feather fans used in the Native American church’s peyote rituals.
- ED.2006.9.39 A handmade cloth body doll showing a male Native American in contemporary dress and traditional hair style of 2 long braids. He wears felt

“moccasins” on his feet with seed bead decorations. Today, Native Americans only wear their fancy traditional clothes for special occasions and most prefer to wear their jeans and a contemporary cloth shirt for everyday. Many men still wear the traditional long, braided hair styles, though some have pony tails or cut their hair short in more mainstream, mixed cultural styles.

ED.2006.9.40 A map published by the National Geographic Society in 1991 entitled “Native American Heritage: A Visitor’s Guide” showing tribal locations and reservations.

In addition, there is a sheet protector with instructions for the popular Plains Indian Stick game. Traditionally an adult gambling game that can run all night long, this can easily be modified to play in a classroom setting. (The playing “pieces” for this game are easily made from popsicle sticks and pieces of small diameter wood dowels or you can do it the traditional way and use sticks found on the ground and leftover bones such those from spareribs.)