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PARFLECHE

CULTURE CLUES

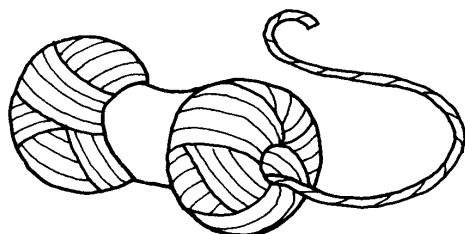
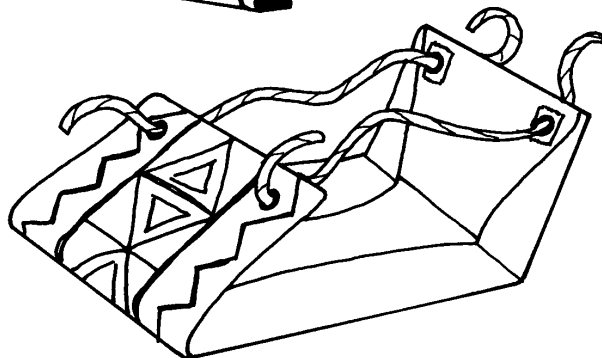
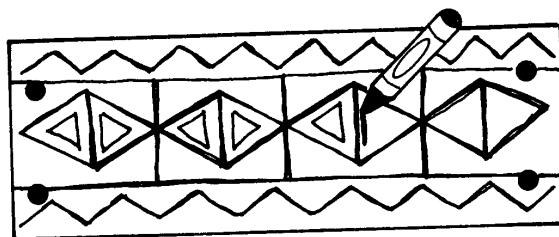
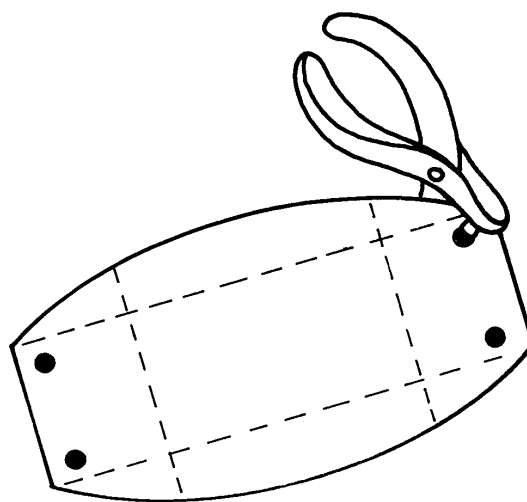
Native American women made storage containers from buffalo hides called *parfleche*. These containers could be strapped to a *travois* or onto a horse to transport food from one campsite to another. The *parfleche* was decorated with painted designs of the tribe.

MATERIALS

- brown butcher paper
- scissors
- hole puncher
- cellophane tape
- crayons or paint
- 36-inch (.92 m) leather thong or yarn

DIRECTIONS

1. Cut a piece of paper 18" x 36" (46 cm x 91 cm). If you wish, follow the directions on page 31 to give your paper the look of real leather.
2. Use paint or crayons to decorate one side with symbols and/or designs. Traditionally, the designs were geometric and done in red, blue, green, and yellow. The design should be symmetrical—the top half is a mirror image of the bottom half and the right half mirrors the left.
3. Punch two holes at the edge of each end as shown. Reinforce the holes with tape. Then repunch holes.
4. With the painted side down, fold each long edge in 6 inches (15 cm). Fold each short end in 9 ½ inches (23 cm). The ends should overlap about an inch (2.54 cm) at the center.
5. Thread the leather thong or yarn through the holes, bringing one end of the thong from each side.
6. Tie the ends together at the center to keep the *parfleche* securely closed.



LONG COUNT DATES

CULTURE CLUES


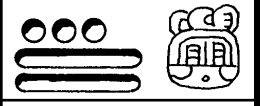
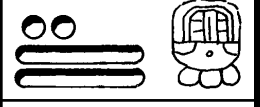


Besides the calendars based on solar and lunar observations used by other Mesoamericans, the Maya developed a third method of measuring time, called the Long Count. Long Count dates appear as part of many Mayan inscriptions and have been valuable in decoding the glyphs of the Maya. By studying inscriptions, archaeologists have calculated that August 13, 3114 BC is the beginning date of this calendar. Although no one is sure exactly what this date represents, scholars think that it is the date the Maya gave for the beginning of this cycle of creation. Each event in the Maya world is recorded as the number of days that have passed since that initial date. Today, Mayan daykeepers in the mountains of Honduras maintain the ancient count and predict that this cycle of the universe will end on December 23, 2012.

Cycles of the Maya Long Count			Modern Calendar		
baktun	20 katuns	144,000 days	century	10 decades	36,525 days
katun	20 tuns	7,200 days	decade	10 years	3,652 days
tun	18 uinals	360 days	year		365 days
uinals	20 kins	20 days	month		28, 29, 30, or 31 days
kins		1 day	day		1 day

Look at the stelae below. Each shows an important date as it would appear in the Long count calendar. Use multiplication and addition to learn how many days each date represents.


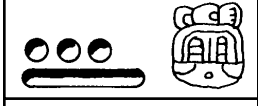



October 12, 1492

Number of Days

	<i>Baktuns</i> x 144,000 = _____
	<i>Katuns</i> x 7,200 = _____
	<i>Tuns</i> x 360 = _____
	<i>Uinals</i> x 20 = _____
	<i>Kins</i> x 1 = _____

July 4, 1776

Number of Days

	<i>Baktuns</i> x 144,000 = _____
	<i>Katuns</i> x 7,200 = _____
	<i>Tuns</i> x 360 = _____
	<i>Uinals</i> x 20 = _____
	<i>Kins</i> x 1 = _____

Total number of days _____

Total number of days _____

Extension: Use a computer program, or addition and subtraction, to calculate your birthday in Long Count. Add your name glyph and the glyphs for mother and father, along with a glyph to represent each parent.