

Piestewa Peak

Phoenix Mountains, Arizona

In 2008, Squaw Mountain was renamed to honor Army Specialist Lori Piestewa.

She was the first American Indian woman in history to die in combat on foreign soil while serving in the U.S. Military. Lori was the first woman to be killed in the Iraq war.



Lori Piestewa -
Hopi Indian



go to www.deomi.org for more observance information

**CULTURAL
AWARENESS**

OBSERVANCE



AMERICAN INDIAN
HERITAGE MONTH

Activity Book

Dances have always played an important role in the lives of American Indians and Alaskan Natives.



On the cover: Dances play a vital role in religious rituals and ceremonies; some are held to guarantee the success of hunts, harvests, giving thanks, and other celebrations.

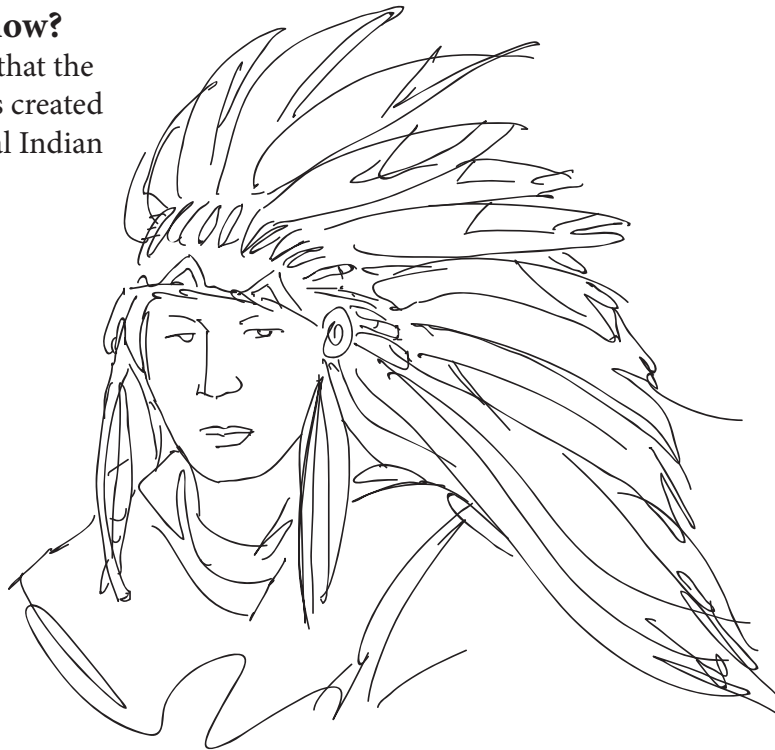
The dancers' movements illustrate the purpose of the dance. It might include the entire tribe or the dance could be specific to men, women, or families.

Fun Fact: Dance continues to be an important part of American Indian/Alaskan Native culture. Dances are regionally or tribally specific and singers usually perform in their native languages.



Did you know?

It is believed that the Sioux Indians created the traditional Indian headdress.



Clarence Wolf Guts enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942 at age 18. While in basic training, a general asked Wolf Guts if he spoke Sioux. He explained the three dialects to the general and said he spoke Lakota. Wolf Guts helped develop a phonetic alphabet based on the Lakota language which later was used to develop a Lakota code. His new job was transmitting coded messages from the general to his chief of staff in the field.

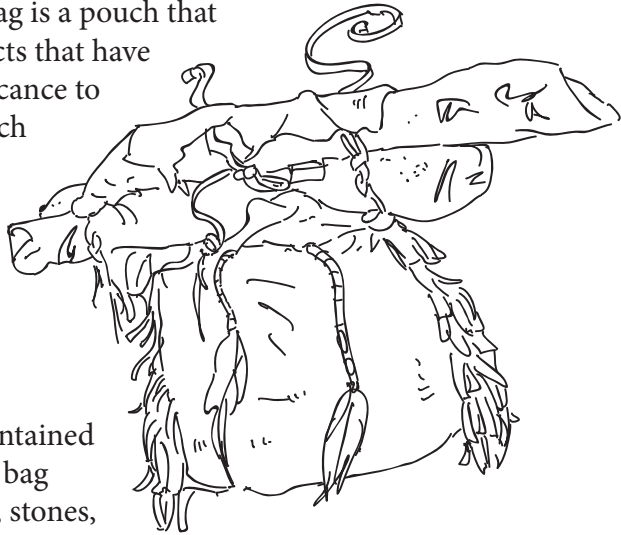
Private First Class Wolf Guts was honorably discharged on Jan. 13, 1946.



Fun Fact: When the towers of the World Trade Center fell on Sept. 11, 2001, Wolf Guts asked his son to call the U.S. Department of Defense to see if the country needed his code talking abilities to find Osama Bin Laden. He was in his late 70s at the time. His son, Don Doyle, said the request personified his father's love of country.

What is a medicine bag?

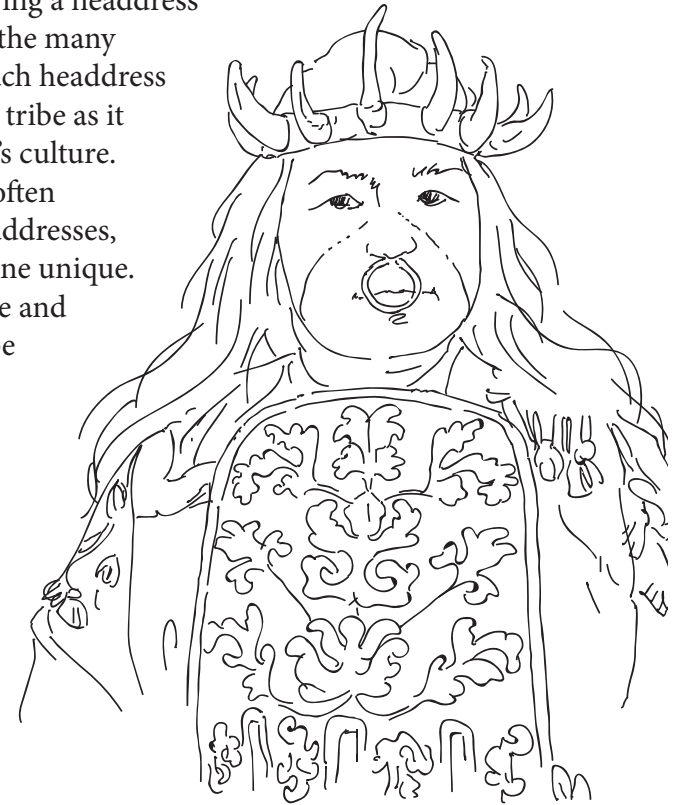
A medicine bag is a pouch that contains objects that have special significance to the owner. Each medicine bag is unique, so no two medicine bags look the same! Items commonly contained in a medicine bag include herbs, stones, shells, feathers, animal skin, fur, teeth, and claws. A medicine bag is often worn for protection, healing or guidance, and is closely connected to the spiritual life of the person wearing it.



Fun Fact: Traditionally a medicine bag contains something from the plant, animal and mineral kingdoms. Plus, something from the life of the individual, such as an important treasure.

What items would you put inside your medicine bag?

The custom of wearing a headdress spread throughout the many tribes. However, each headdress varies from tribe to tribe as it represents the tribe's culture. Individuals would often customize their headdresses, thus making each one unique. Only the most brave and powerful of the tribe wore headdresses. Indian headdresses are associated with feathers. Do you know what the feathers represent? Warriors would earn a feather each time they did something the tribe felt was a brave or significant act, similar to American Military Service ribbons today.



Fun Fact: The most prized of all feathers to receive was the Golden Eagle feather. Indians saw the eagle as a messenger to the Creator, and this feather could only be earned through hardship, loyalty, and strength.



In the tradition of Native peoples, man and animal share an important bond. Each animal has symbolic significance and its qualities were many times used to describe and name an individual. Read through each animal's characteristics and choose the animal that best represents who you are.

Bear: The protector. She symbolizes physical strength and leadership as well as the wild untamable side of humanity.

Bison: A provider of all things needed for living. The bison brings abundance and healing. They represent wisdom, renewal, and power based on knowledge.

Coyote: Sometimes considered an omen of bad things - a trickster. The coyote represents things we cannot change or understand. He is about acceptance of human limitation.

Crow: A carrier of souls from darkness to light, he guards against fear in the dark. The crow also looks for the bright and shiny aspects of life.

Deer: Symbolizes speed and family protection. The deer is alert and a symbol of sensitivity and kindness.

Elk: A symbol of nobility, power, freedom, great strength, and agility.

Moose: Symbolizes scrutiny and attention to detail and teaches us to be proud of our accomplishments.

Mountain Lion: A symbol of power. He teaches you to balance your own. He responds to any challenge with swiftness.

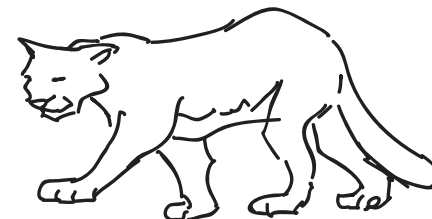
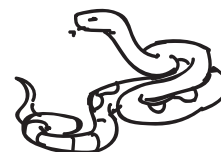
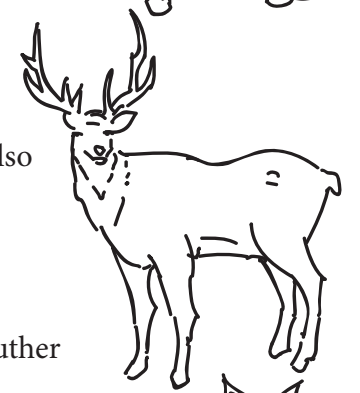
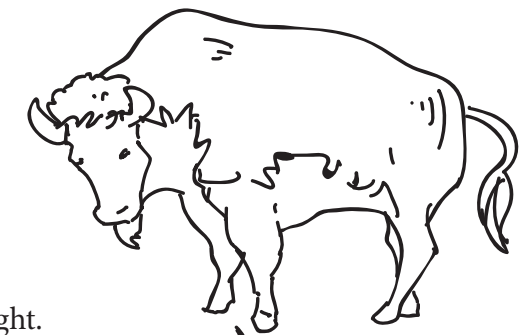
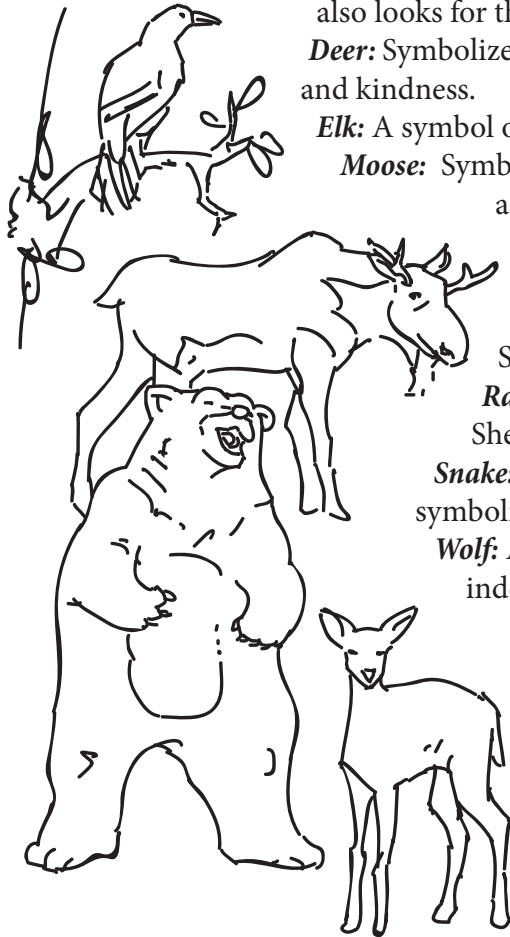
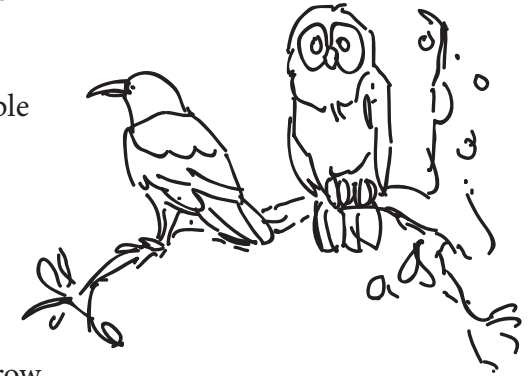
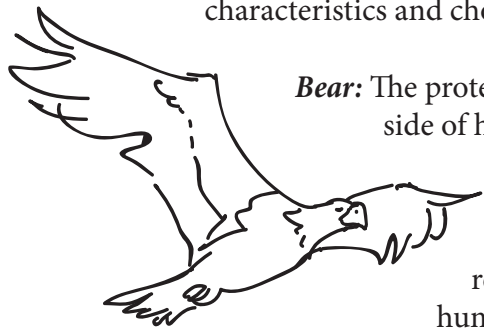
Owl: Represents wisdom. The owl has amazing vision, bringing the gift of insight. She also symbolizes the souls of the departed.

Raven: Sometimes she is a trickster. The raven is the messenger from the spirit world. She represents mystery.

Snake: Usually seen in healing and fertility rites. The snake is often considered a hunter. She also symbolizes transformation.

Wolf: A teacher of new ideas and wisdom, he shows intense loyalty with a balance of independence. The wolf teaches cooperation and the value of extended families.

Here's some examples of American Indian/Alaska Native names: Roberta Blackgoat, Luther Standing Bear, Arvol Looking Horse, Black Elk, Little Wolf, and Morning Dove.





ANSWER KEY

(Page 1)

- A - 2 D - 3
- B - 5 E - 6
- C - 1 F - 4

(Page 4)

(English translation)

C-O-D-E R-E-C-E-I-V-E-D

Here's how the message is decoded:

- MOASI (C-Cat), NE-AHS-JAH (O-Owl), LHA-CHA-EH (D-Dog),
- DZEH (E-Eik), GAH (R-Rabbit), DZEH (E-Eik), MOASI (C-Cat),
- DZEH (E-Eik), TKIN (I-Ice), A-KEH-DI-GLINI (V-Victor), DZEH (E Eik),
- LHA-CHA-EH (D-Dog)

CULTURAL AWARENESS
OBSERVANCE

Mary G. Ross, was the first American Indian female engineer, whose major contributions to the aerospace industry include the development of concepts for interplanetary space travel, manned and unmanned earth-orbiting flights, and orbiting satellites.



A true pioneer, she reached for the stars and opened doors for future generations of women and American Indians to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

Did you know

not all American Indians lived in teepees?

American Indians lived in a wide variety of homes. Different tribes built different types of homes reflecting the region in which they lived, their climate, and the nature of their life.

Some tribes were nomads traveling from place to place. Tribes living in the Great Plains hunted buffalo for food so they would follow the herds as they roamed the plains. They built homes that were easy to move and build. They were called teepees. (Fun fact, teepees can also be spelled tepees or tipis!) Other tribes lived in one place for a long time because water and food were nearby.

Try to match the description to the correct house!



1. Plateau mud pie house

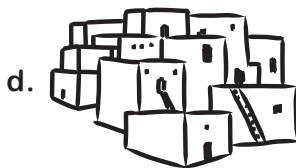
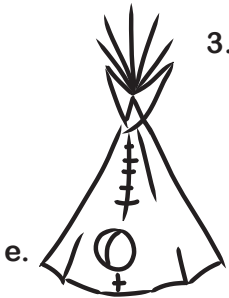
2. Great Basin thatched wickiup

3. Southwest stone or adobe pueblo

4. Arctic domed snow house

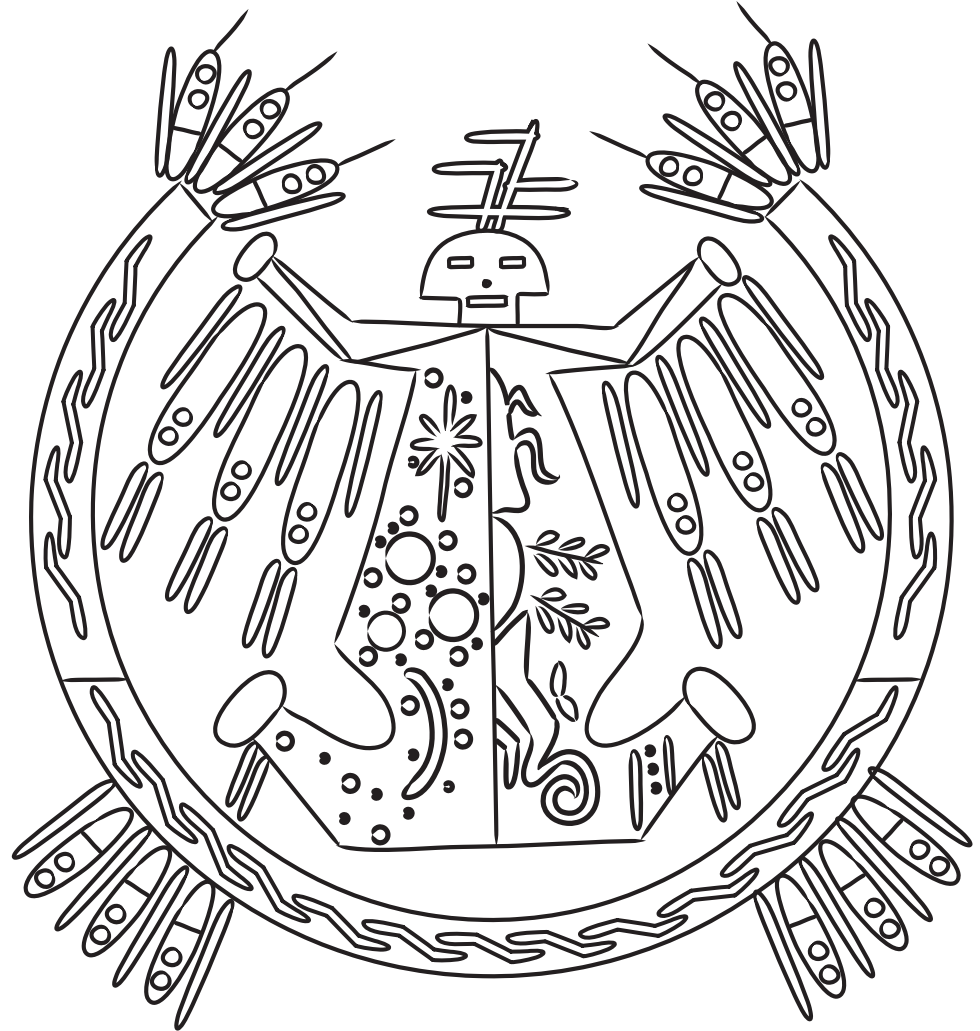
5. Yukon double lean-to

6. Plain buffalo hide tipi



Sand Painting

Sand paintings are grains of colored sand that are painstakingly positioned to form a complicated design of geometric shapes and symbols. The most famous paintings are the sand paintings of the Southwestern Native Americans, such as the Navajo. They view the paintings as spiritual, living beings to be treated with respect.



CAN YOU DECODE THE HIDDEN MESSAGE?

How to Translate:

Letter - Navajo word - English word

C MOASI Cat
D LHA-CHA-EH Dog
E DZEH EIK
I TKIN Ice

O NE-AHS-JAH Owl
R GAH Rabbit
V A-KEH-DI-GLINI Victor

See if you can translate the following coded message.

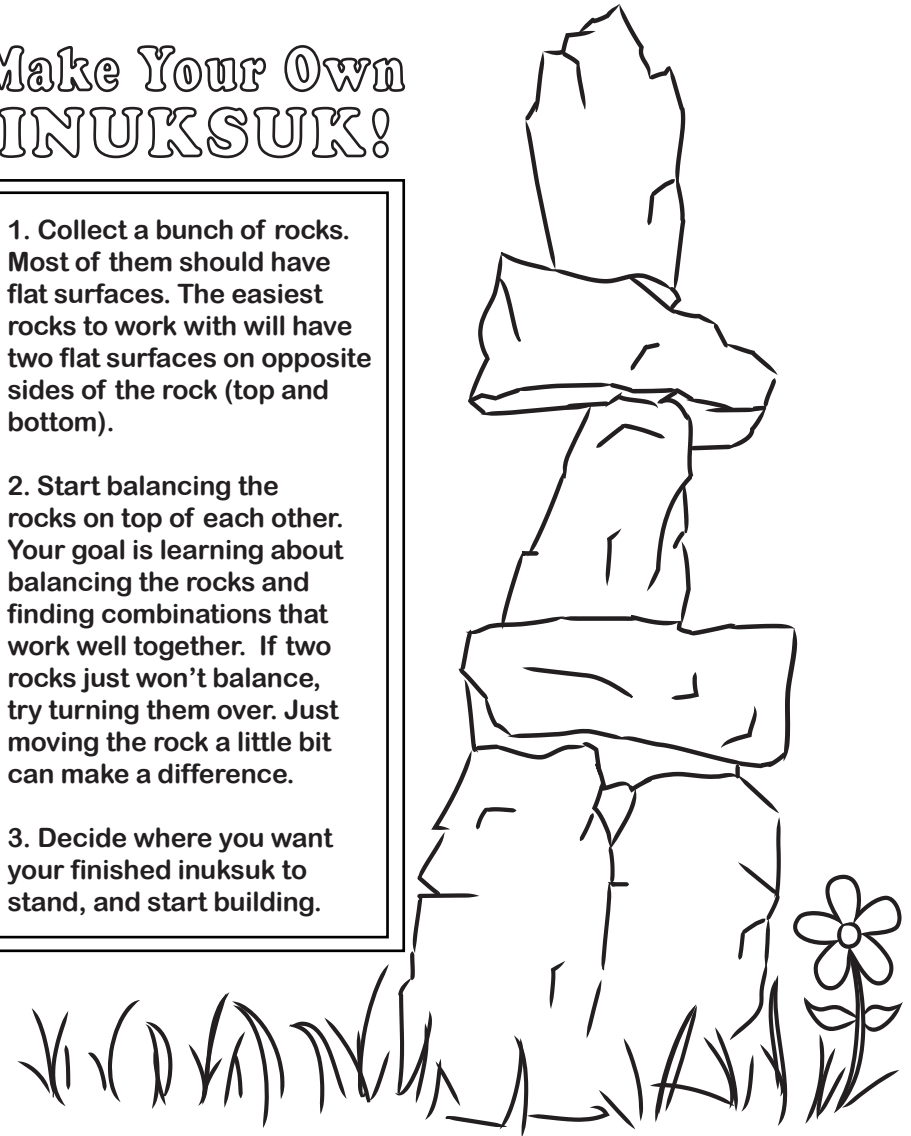
MOASI NE-AHS-JAH LHA-CHA-EH
DZEH GAH DZEH MOASI DZEH TKIN
A-KEH-DI-GLINI DZEH LHA-CHA-EH



An inuksuk is a pile of stones arranged in the likeness of a human being. They were used by the Inuit, Iñupia, Kalaallit, Yupik, and other tribes of the Arctic region of North America. An inuksuk can be small or large. They were used to communicate things—almost like present day street signs! They marked the best route to travel, fishing areas, dangerous places, and even to help hunt caribou.

Make Your Own INUKSUK!

1. Collect a bunch of rocks. Most of them should have flat surfaces. The easiest rocks to work with will have two flat surfaces on opposite sides of the rock (top and bottom).
2. Start balancing the rocks on top of each other. Your goal is learning about balancing the rocks and finding combinations that work well together. If two rocks just won't balance, try turning them over. Just moving the rock a little bit can make a difference.
3. Decide where you want your finished inuksuk to stand, and start building.



CODE TALKERS



American Indian Code Talkers Tribes

Assiniboine	Menominee
Cherokee	Meskwaki
Cheyenne	Mississauga
Chippewa/Oneida	Muscogee
Choctaw	Navajo
Comanche	Osage
Cree	Pawnee
Crow	Sac and Fox
Hopi	Seminole
Kiowa	Sioux



Code Talkers were American Indian Service Members (from 33 different tribes) who developed a secretive code of communication built upon their native languages on the battle fields in both World War I and World War II.

The Code Talkers' role in war required intelligence and bravery. They endured some of the most dangerous battles and remained calm under fire. They served proudly, with honor and distinction. Their actions proved critical in several important campaigns, and they are credited with saving thousands of American and allies' lives.

CULTURAL
AWARENESS

OBSERVANCE

National American Indian Heritage Month
November



Did you know?

American Indians and Alaskan Natives attach special significance to the Eagle and its feathers. The feather symbolizes trust, honor, strength, wisdom, power, and freedom. To be given an Eagle feather is the highest honor that can be awarded within some indigenous cultures. And just like the American flag, it must be handled with care and can never be dropped on the ground.

Of all the North American Indigenous teachings, the Seven Grandfather Teachings are the most commonly shared from coast to coast.

Humility is represented by the **wolf**. For the wolf, life is lived for his pack and the ultimate shame is to be outcast. Humility is to know that you are a sacred part of creation. Live life selflessly and not selfishly.

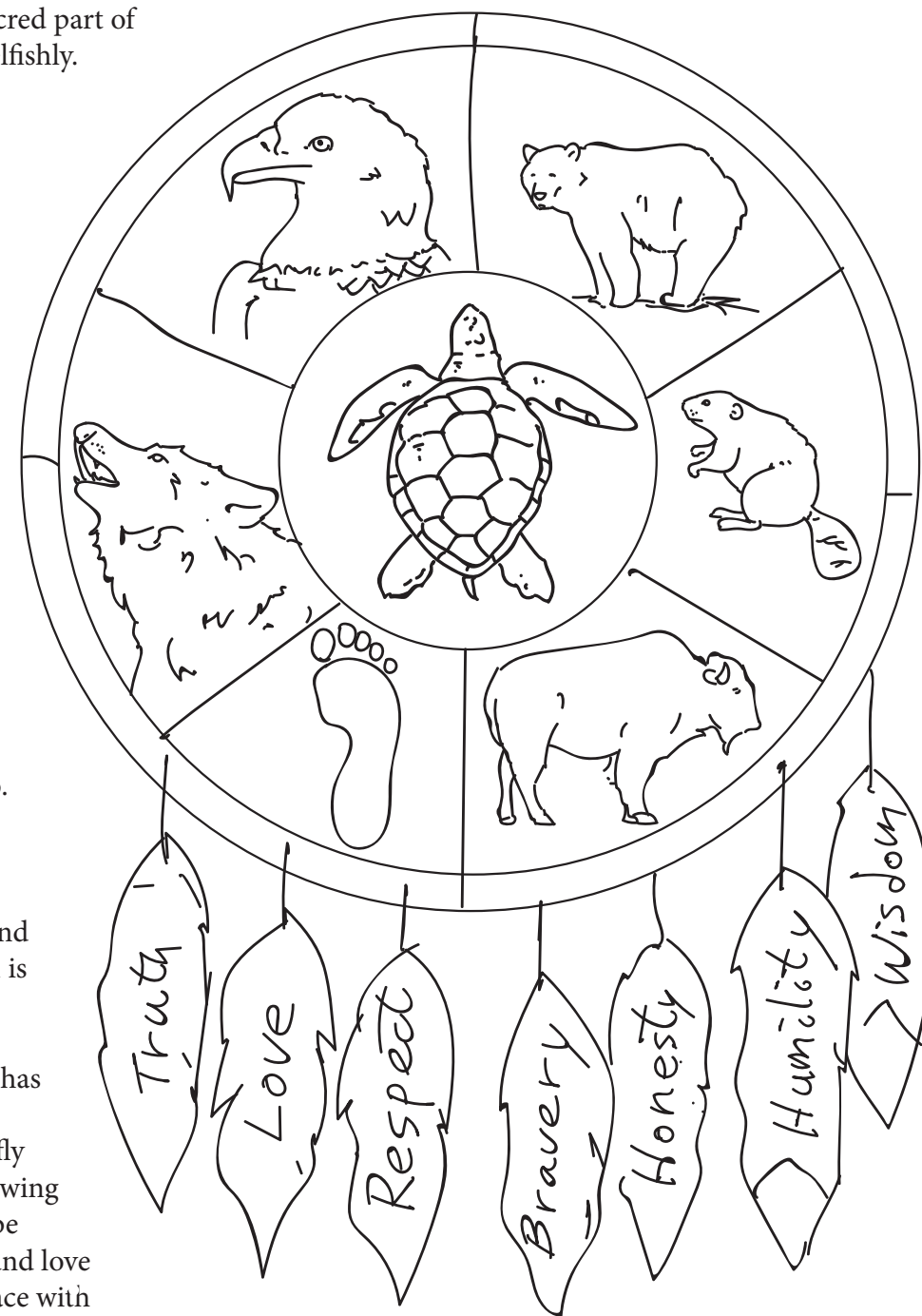
Bravery is represented by the **bear**. The mother bear has the courage and strength to face her fears and challenges while protecting her young. The bear also shows us how to live a balanced life with rest, survival, and play.

The **beaver** represents **wisdom** because he uses his natural gift wisely for his survival. The beaver also alters his environment in an environmentally friendly and sustainable way for the benefit of his family. To cherish knowledge is to know wisdom.

Respect is represented by the **buffalo**. The buffalo gives every part of his being to sustain the human way of living, not because he is of less value, but because he respects the balance and needs of others. To honor all creation is to have respect.

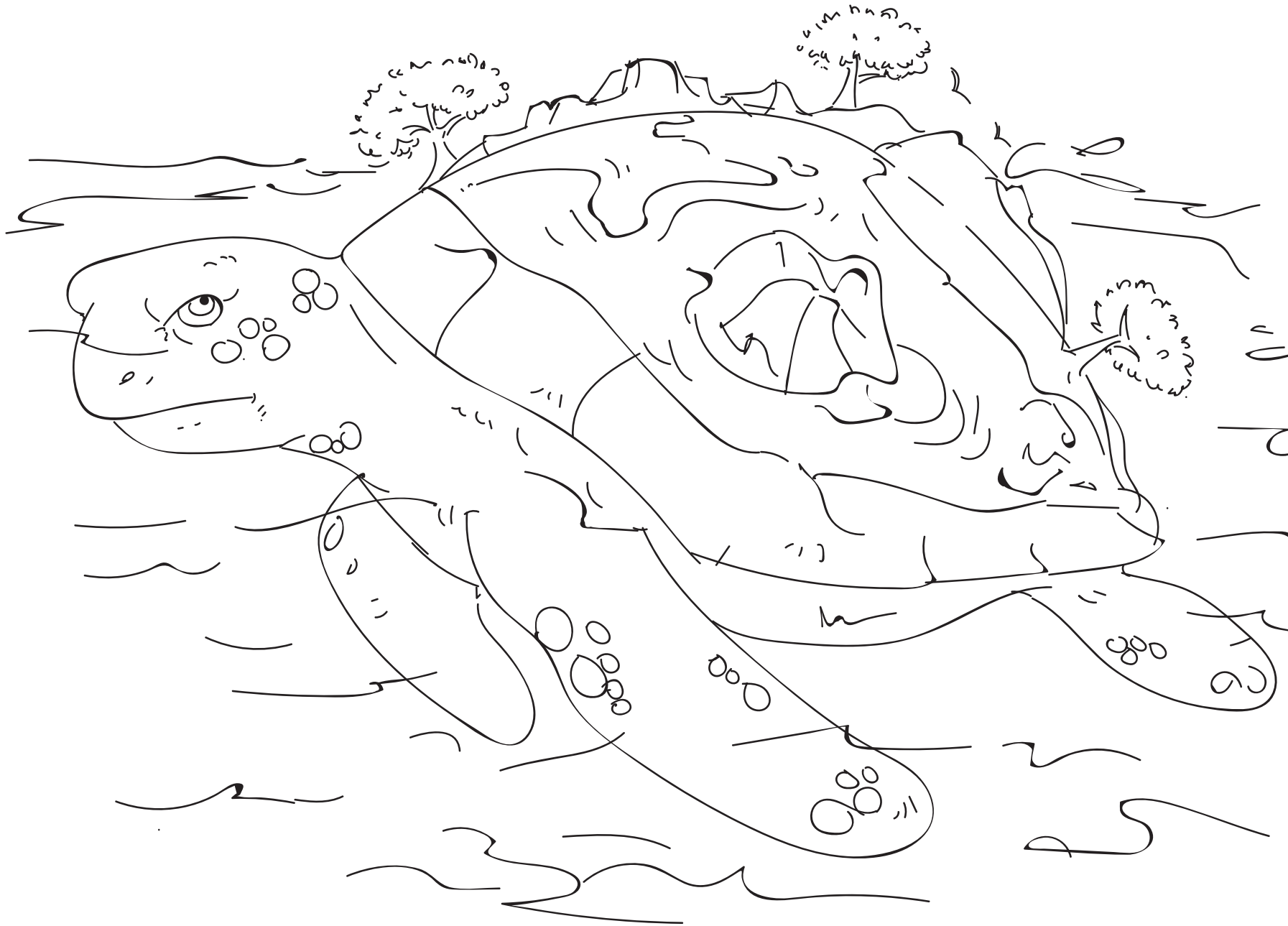
The **eagle** represents **love** because he has the strength to carry all the teachings of the universe and has the ability to fly highest and closest to the creator. Knowing love is to know peace and love must be unconditional. This is to know love and love yourself truly. Then you will be at peace with yourself, the balance of life, and the creator.

Honesty is represented by the **sabe (humans)**. The sabe reminds us to be ourselves and not someone we are not. To walk through life with integrity is to know honesty. Be honest with yourself. Recognize and accept who you are. Accept and use the gifts you have been given. Do not seek to deceive yourself or others.



The American Indian/Alaska Native culture is known for its rich oral tradition. Stories were shared to pass down history, traditions, customs, rituals, and legends.

In **American Indian** folklore, the American continent is referred to as “Turtle Island.” It is said that the Turtle carries the weight of the land with the continent on her back. The turtle lives life in a slow and meticulous manner because she understands the importance of both the journey and the destination.



Did you know?

On June 7, 2017, 175 American Indians who landed on Omaha Beach were honored with a granite, turtle-shaped monument in Saint Laurent sur Mer, France, on the 73rd anniversary of the Allied invasion of Normandy.



go to www.deomi.org for more observance information

Did you know there are six different types of Totem Poles?

1. Storytelling poles - Native Alaskans used symbols to preserve stories and legends passing them down from one generation to the next.

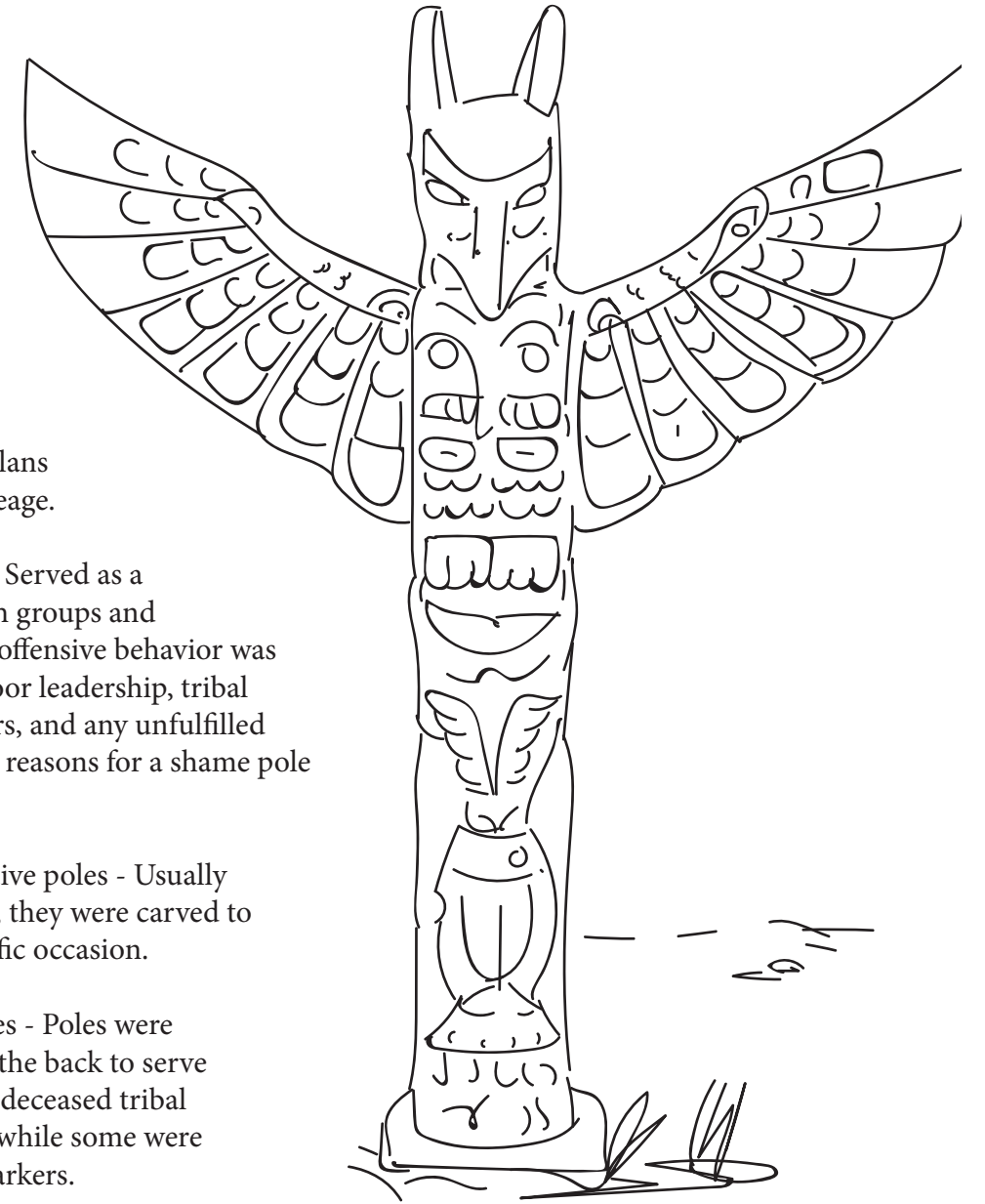
2. Memorial poles - Served to highlight the life of an important tribal member.

3. House poles - Told of a tribal clans ancestry and lineage.

4. Shame poles - Served as a reminder to both groups and individuals that offensive behavior was unacceptable. Poor leadership, tribal quarrels, murders, and any unfulfilled obligations were reasons for a shame pole to be erected.

5. Commemorative poles - Usually the largest poles, they were carved to celebrate a specific occasion.

6. Mortuary poles - Poles were hollowed out in the back to serve as a holder for a deceased tribal member's ashes while some were used as grave markers.



OBSERVANCE

November



Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our society can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.

-Harry S. Truman

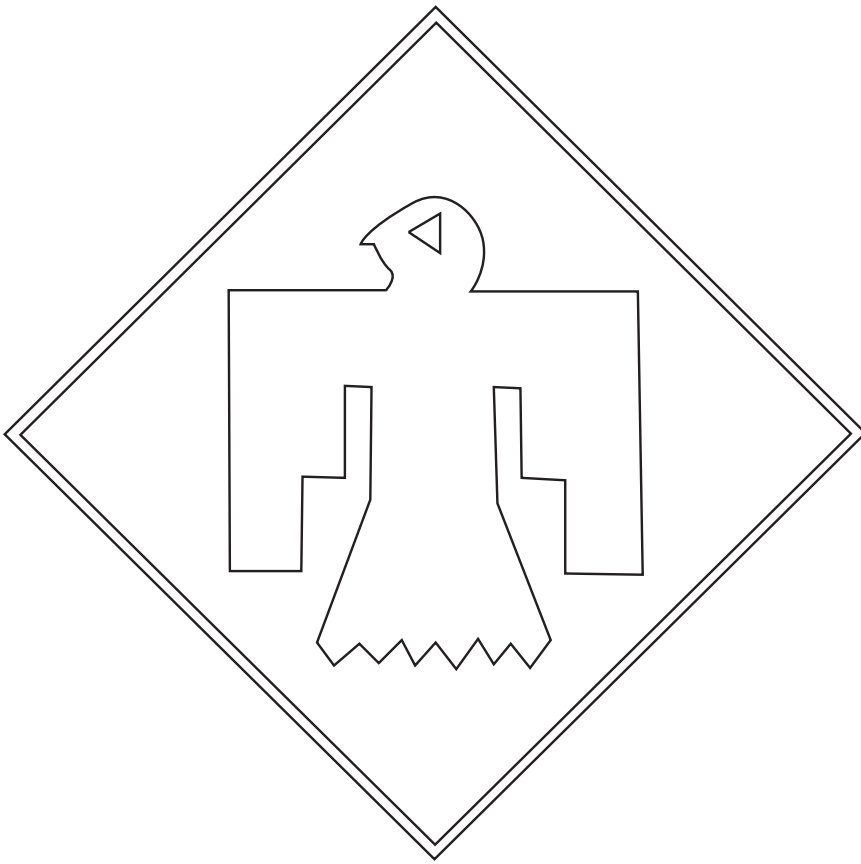


Harvey and Mark Jr. Jacobs

Until recently, no one knew about the Alaskan Tlingit code talkers. (Even their families didn't know of their secret service!)

The Tlingit language was one of the Native languages used during World War II to transmit messages.

In 2013, Congress awarded silver medals posthumously to Tlingit code talkers Robert "Jeff" David Sr., Richard Bean Sr., George Lewis Jr., and the Jacobs brothers.

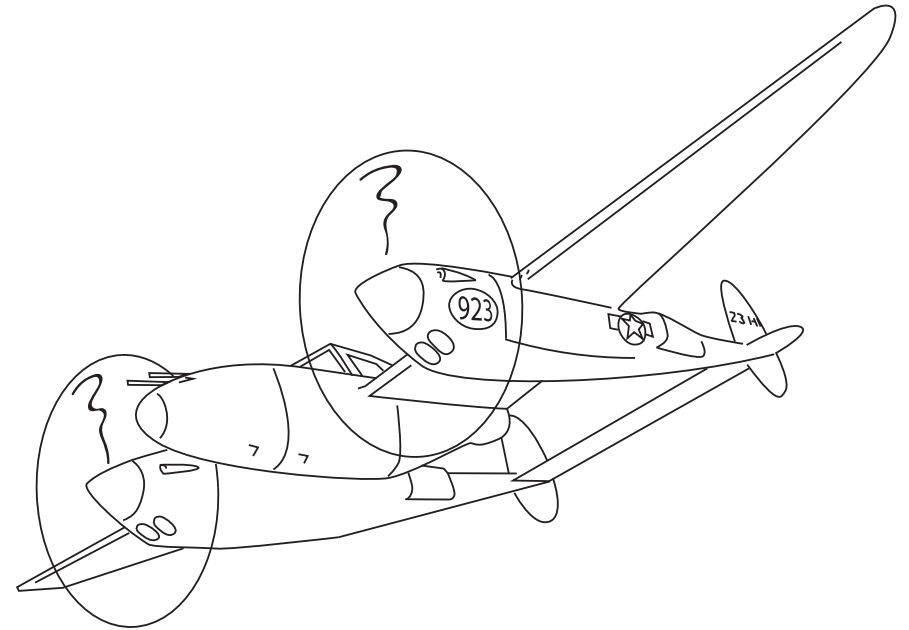


Formed as a National Guard unit in 1923, the ***Thunderbirds*** were deployed to North Africa in June 1943.

After invading Sicily and participating in the invasions of Salerno and Anzio in Italy, the division invaded southern France and fought in fierce combat in the Vosges Mountains before crossing the border into Germany.

There, the unit liberated Dachau concentration camp, freeing more than 30,000 prisoners.

General George Patton said to the Thunderbirds, “*You are one of the best, if not the best, divisions in the history of American arms.*”



In 1942, Ross was one of a handful of female mathematicians hired by Lockheed Martin Aircraft Corporation.

She worked on the P-38 Lightning, one of the fastest airplanes (at the time) and the first military airplane to fly faster than 400 mph!

She would go on to become the first Native American female engineer, and the first female engineer in the history of Lockheed.



Van Barfoot was a Choctaw Indian from Mississippi, and a second lieutenant in the Thunderbirds.

On May 23, 1944, during the breakout from Anzio to Rome, Barfoot knocked out two machine gun nests and captured 17 German soldiers.

Later that same day, he repelled a German tank assault, destroyed a Nazi fieldpiece and while returning to camp, carried two wounded commanders to safety.

He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty.



Mary Golda Ross attributed her successes to the rich heritage of her Cherokee people and the importance of tribal emphasis on education. From a young age, she gravitated toward mathematics and science.

“I was brought up in the Cherokee tradition of equal education for boys and girls. It did not bother me to be the only girl in the math class.”



Design your own coin to honor the service of American Indians and Alaskan Natives in World War II.

