

Lesson Name Topic:	Parfleche making Students will learn what a parfleche is and that some Native tribes used these items		
Objectives: Essential Understandings	Students will learn what a parfleche is Students will be able to follow the lesson and make their own parfleche to take home		
Internal/ External Assets addressed	Internal Commitment to learning-learning a new skill outside of school Social competencies-respect for elders  External Boundaries and Expectations-honoring elders and their teachings		
Standards or language proficiency descriptors: World readiness standards	Productive language standards: Produce learned words and phrases about sewing and repeat throughout the creative process  <b>Standard 3: Students will understand the relationship between language and culture.</b>		
Words of the week  STEPS to success Guiding Questions:	Leather or hide Thread What word would your tribe use to describe something that carries items? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will listen carefully to elders for directions on how to make their parfleche</li> </ul> What cultural significance does a parfleche have for Native cultures? How were items like this used?		
Signs of cultural growth/ Measurable student outcomes: Traditional Knowledge or Teachings	Students will understand how certain items can carry much meaning for tribes. Students will make connections to their own tribal traditions.  The impact of European contact had an impact on how traditional items were made, but tribes still held onto traditions and found a way to carry them forward even to this day.		
SEL connections	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;"> <b>Self &amp; Social Awareness</b>            Become comfortable and share            Willingness to stretch            Relationship building, community support            Be aware of other cultures, languages, histories and identities.         </td> <td style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;"> <b>Self &amp; Social Management</b>            Opportunity to grow and learn            Communicate interact with others            Be respectful of diverse perspectives, culture, languages, history and ability         </td> </tr> </table> -Learning about yourself, managing behavior, learning from elders and respecting their teachings	<b>Self &amp; Social Awareness</b> Become comfortable and share Willingness to stretch Relationship building, community support Be aware of other cultures, languages, histories and identities.	<b>Self &amp; Social Management</b> Opportunity to grow and learn Communicate interact with others Be respectful of diverse perspectives, culture, languages, history and ability
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Background:



A **parfleche** is a type of wallet or bag made from rawhide. Historically made by Plateau, Great Basin, and Plains women, they are usually decorated with brightly colored geometrical designs.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Overview [\[edit\]](#)

The increased mobility among the [post-contact Plains Indians horse culture](#) required that essential goods such as preserved foods (including [pemmican](#)), clothing, medicines, and ceremonial items be transported efficiently in lightweight and weatherproof packaging.<sup>[3]:29</sup> While the most common form of the parfleche was the folded envelope or flat wallet, they were also constructed as laced flat cases, cylinders, and trunks.<sup>[3]:59</sup>

The production of parfleche bags declined drastically when mercenaries hired by the US federal government slaughtered the [buffalo herds](#) to the brink of extinction. The federal government forced Indigenous peoples to relocate onto government-partitioned [reservations](#).<sup>[3]:38</sup> While less visible to the colonists who were collecting them for museums, some tribes, particularly the [Nez Perce](#) were able to continue hunting and making parfleches throughout the 20th century. The [Niisitapi](#) and [Lakota people](#) continue to produce parfleches today.<sup>[3]:39</sup>

## Etymology [\[edit\]](#)

The name "parfleche" was initially used by French [fur traders](#) in the region, and derives from the [French language](#) *parer* meaning "to parry" or "to defend", and *flèche* meaning "arrow".<sup>[4]:717</sup> "Parfleche" was also used to describe tough rawhide shields, but later used primarily for these decorated rawhide containers.<sup>[4]:717</sup> Different Indigenous peoples have their own names for these versatile packages, including *ho'seō'o* ([Cheyenne](#)),<sup>[5]</sup> *bishkisché* ([Apsáalooke](#))<sup>[6]</sup> and *ho'úwoonó3* ([Hinono'eino](#)).<sup>[7][8]:25</sup>

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