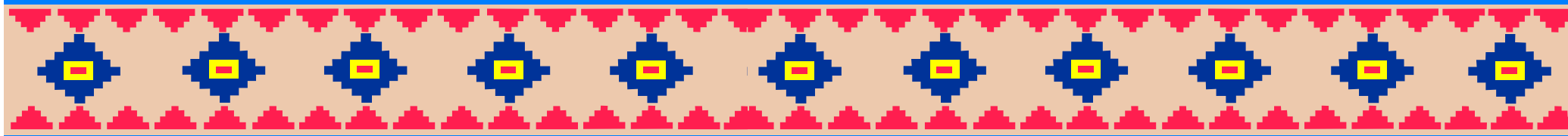


NATIVE
AMERICANS
IN
WABASH
COUNTY



Pre-Trip

Two of the items in this barrel are made of gourds.

Gourds would have had many uses for Native Americans.

A Gourd is a type of squash (but you can't eat it). It grows like a pumpkin, but is then dried until the outside becomes a hard shell. Part of the shell can then be cut away to create a dipper (like the one in the basket) or a bowl (like the one holding the beads).

What else in this case was made from natural items?

Find this trading barrel.

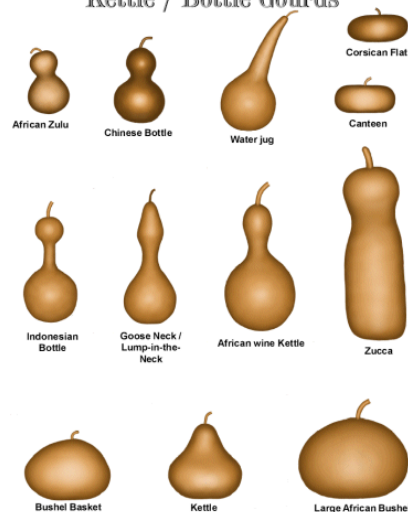


At the Museum

• Which of these items do you think the Native Americans had to trade? (Look for items that would have been made from nature)

• What do you think the pioneers brought to trade?

Gourd Identification Chart
Kettle / Bottle Gourds



03 - The Gourd Reserve™
Illustrations by *Dee Schell* 2003

There are many different types of gourds. Some grow with long “handles” that make them perfect for water dippers. Others are squat and round and made perfect bowls. Some would be used for making musical instruments, as well.

Pre-Trip

Look closely at this trap. Can you see what is tying the sticks together?

Before rope or twine (or duct tape) was introduced to the Native Americans, they used rawhide to hold things together.

Rawhide is animal skin that is scraped clean (to remove the hair) and then cut into small strips. Sometimes, they would twist many thin strips together to create a stronger strand of rawhide.

Native Americans might also use gut strings (made from animal intestines), sinew (made from tendons in the legs and arms of animals) or plant fibers spun together on a drop spindle.



Find this trap.



At the Museum

- Go ahead and try it!
- What animals do you think Native Americans could catch with a trap like this?

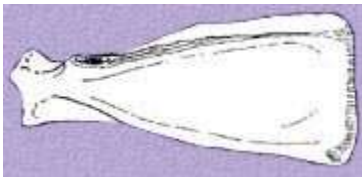
At Left: A man cuts rawhide into strips.
At Right: A woman makes yarn on a drop spindle



Pre-Trip

What if you wanted to garden, but didn't have the proper tools. What would you do?

When the Native Americans had this problem, they came up with a solution that used items from nature. When they would kill an animal, they would use every part for something, throwing nothing away. Using the bones and antlers for tool making is just one example of this.



The scapula (shoulder blade) of a bison or an elk would make a perfect hoe, just as it is! The bone would often be ground down to create a sharp edge.

At the Museum

Find these all natural gardening tools.



- See if you can tell what was used to make these gardening tools.

Pre-Trip

Take a look at the items next to the figure's feet. To the left is something called a mortar and pestle. The mortar and pestle is a tool used to crush, grind, and mix substances. The pestle is a heavy bat shaped stick whose end is used for pounding and grinding, and the mortar is a bowl, typically made of hard wood, marble, clay, or stone.

Find this woman.



Native Americans would use a mortar and pestle to grind up corn and nuts.



At the Museum

- Read the story of Frances Slocum. Be sure to ask to see the original garment.
- Look at the items at her feet.
- How were they used in daily life?

Pre-Trip

A moccasin is a shoe made of deerskin or other soft leather, consisting of a sole and sides made of one piece of leather, stitched together at the top. This moccasin has a fancy bead design sewn on the top using thin strands of sinew for thread.

Find this moccasin.



A man separates the sinew from the back muscle of a deer into strands that can be used for sewing.



At the Museum

- Look closely at the pair of moccasins and the stone tools in the case.
- Read about the Native Americans that lived in this area.
- What were the two main tribes that lived here?

Pre-Trip

It was a long process from killing an animal to using its skin for clothing or other uses.

Fresh hides were dressed by first stretching them on the ground and fastening them down with wooden pegs around the edges. Then the hide was scraped with a flat bone or a stone to get rid of any remaining meat or fat. If a hide was to be used for a robe or a winter garment, the fur was left on it. If warmth was not important, the fur was removed.

Find these furs.



The hide was pulled back and forth over a smoothed post to soften it. Then, each side of the hide was dried over a fire made of green wood. The hide was generally formed into a cone shape to trap the smoke inside. The longer the hide was smoked, the darker it became. It took nearly a week to prepare one hide so it could be cut into the sizes and shapes needed.



At the Museum

- How many of these furs can you identify?
- Which fur is the softest?
- Which fur would be the warmest?
- Which fur is the biggest?
- Which animal had the longest claws?

Pre-Trip

A treaty was signed at Paradise Spring (the Native Americans called it Kincomaong) that allowed white settlers to claim land in the area.

A treaty is an agreement between two or more groups, usually involving a trade of some kind.

Find this display.



At the Museum

- When was the treaty signed?
- Which tribes of Native Americans were involved in the treaty?
- How many acres of land did the Native Americans give up?

Pre-Trip

An arrowhead is point of an arrow, or a shape resembling such a point.

Arrowheads can be found all over the world. They are usually made of stone (flint or obsidian); however in many excavations bone, wooden and metal arrowheads have been found.

Arrowheads are attached to arrow shafts and may be fired from a bow, or attached to spears and thrown.

Find these stone tools.



At the Museum

- Study the different types of arrowheads and stone tools. Which do you think were used for hunting?
- Read about the Miami leaders.

Pre-Trip

Clarence Gofroy was a storyteller from the Miami Indian tribe. He was also a descendent (relative) of Frances Slocum.

Chief Godfroy told stories in the oral tradition. That means they were told from person to person, and not written down.

In the 1960's, Una McClurg finally wrote Godfroy's stories down.

Find this storyteller.



At the Museum

- How was Chief Godfroy related to Frances Slocum?
- Listen to a story!