



Ancestral Artifacts: Museum Stewardship & the Wisdom of Elders
“Shoshone Parfleche”
3rd-5th Grade
Lesson Plan #3

LESSON PLAN DEVELOPED BY: Ann Abeyta – Eastern Shoshone

Reviewed by George Abeyta, Zedora Enos and Robyn Rofkar at the Eastern Shoshone Cultural Center

COMMON CORE STANDARDS ADDRESSED IN LESSON:

(See Standard Definition at end of lesson)

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY. RH.6-8.7 - Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Key Ideas and Details:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY. RI.4.3 - Key Ideas and Details:

WYOMING STATE STANDARDS ADDRESSED IN LESSON:

Wyoming Social Studies Standards (2018)

(See Standard Definitions at the end of the lesson)

3rd-5th Grade

SS Standard Content 2 – 5.2.1, 5.2.2

DURATION: 2 Day Lesson Plan

PBS VIDEO: “Shoshone Parfleche”

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

1. Handout 1 for Video note taking
2. Handouts for matching activity
3. Wyoming PBS Video-Shoshone Parfleche
4. List of questions for the teacher
5. 3 Group Folders for the different Objectives and questions
6. Chart Paper and Marker for Whole Group discussion and Answering questions
7. Rubric for Group Presentations
8. Final Assessment

KEY VOCABULARY:

Parfleche, Storage, Dried Meat, Eastern Shoshone, 3-Dimensional, Rawhide, Environment

DESCRIPTOR:

Students will listen while watching the “Shoshone Parfleche” video. They will share their observations, take a gallery walk after completing Activity #1, and work in collaborative research groups to present information about parfleche.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Objective 1: Students will explain how parfleche was made, how it was used in the past, and how it is used today. Students will compare parfleche to other storage containers used in modern day living.

Objective 2: Students will describe how parfleche is a form of art for the Eastern Shoshone people.

Objective 3: Students will identify how parfleche was made from elk, deer and bison and was a part of adjusting to their environment. Students will identify how the use of parfleche made life easier for the Eastern Shoshone people.

Objective 4: Students can identify how information about parfleche can be found on the internet.

Objective 5: Students can explain how a 3-dimensional photo of a parfleche helped them learn more about the history of the Eastern Shoshone parfleche.

LESSON INTRODUCTION:

Teacher will say:

“Have you ever tried to take a trip without a suitcase? Have you ever tried to take your lunch to school without a lunchbox? Have you ever wondered what Native American people did to carry their belongings when they traveled or what they stored their items in? Tribes adjusted to their environments making use of the resources available to them. We are going to learn about parfleche and how parfleche was important in the everyday lives of the Eastern Shoshone tribe.”

STEP BY STEP PROCEDURE:

Day 1

1. The teacher will introduce the 2-day lesson to the class. *“Students we will be learning about the Eastern Shoshone tribe and how they carried items daily as well as when they traveled.”*
2. The teacher instructions, *“Today you will watch a 3-minute Wyoming PBS Eastern Shoshone Parfleche video. As you watch the video, closely view the objects in the video. As you are watching the video, remember what you see and hear. Use the notetaking handout to write down words and/or draw pictures to help describe what you see.”*



3. Distribute Video Notetaking Handout to each student

Words	Pictures

Play the 3-minute video and allow 5 minutes after the video for students to finish writing words and drawing pictures.

4. The teacher will have all the students come together as a whole group and discuss what they noticed from the video. The teacher will ask the following questions:

- What do you think *parfleche* means?
- What do you think *parfleche* is made from?
- How do you think *parfleche* is made?
- What did the Eastern Shoshone people use *parfleche* for?
- Do you think *parfleche* made life easier for them? If so, Why?
- Why did the Eastern Shoshone people put designs on the *parfleche*?
- What do you think they used for the paint on the *parfleche*?
- What do you think they used for paint brushes to put the designs on the *parfleche*.

5. Day 1 Activity #2-Matching - Uses of Parfleche with Modern day uses for containers

The Teacher will read the following to the entire class:

“The Eastern Shoshone people used containers of rawhide called Parfleches. The Eastern Shoshone Parfleche was of various sizes as well as the basic storage and moving containers for the tribe: not to mention other tribes throughout the Rocky Mountain and Plains region. The word “Parfleche” is of doubtful origin; but was used as early as the 1700’s. The Eastern Shoshone also stored pemmican (dried meat) inside a Parfleche. Like most other articles used by the Eastern Shoshone People, the Parfleche was handsomely decorated with geometric designs or the Shoshone Rose.”

Copied from Eastern Shoshone Culture Center-Parfleche Display



7. The Teacher will distribute the two handouts for matching activity and ask the students to consider the following when completing Activity #2.

“What did the Eastern Shoshone people use parfleche for in the past?”

Do you think parfleche made life easier for the Eastern Shoshone People? If so, why?

What are some containers we use today that are similar to the use of parfleche in the past?”



8. Students will complete Activity #2- How was Parfleche Used in the Past?

Directions: Sort the pictures in the correct category

Parfleche In the Past	Containers In Modern Day
Food Container	Food Container
Purse for Sewing items	Purse
Parfleche for clothing	Suitcase
Saddle Bags to Carry Items on a Horse	Saddle Bags to Carry Items on a Horse
Bow and Arrow Case	Gun Case

Handout #2 for Activity #2

Directions: Cut and sort under correct heading for Parfleche (Handout #1 - Containers used by Native Americans or Containers used today.)

 Purse https://jmsellsar.click/product_details/81506399.html	 Parfleche Food Bag https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&sca_esv=81be61c3dad309e5&channel=mac_bm&sxsrf=AE3TifOTIcwbFCOWlySs2G8ZY2a18_VrGA:1758189948816&q=Lakota+style+parfleche+food+container+for+sale&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiC-uL6h-KPAxVNBzQIH9NKf4Q1QJ6BAgfEAE&biw=1152&bih=480&dpr=2
 Saddle Bags https://www.etsy.com/listing/	 Modern Luggage Photo by Andrea Abeyta
 Parfleche Box https://hood.resourcespace.com	 Parfleche Cylinder Case https://encrypted-tbn3.gstatic.com/shopping?q=tbn:ANd9GcSwHXF7z2VIRhLBmxKVQUbnzqAlo9Kahrp-5c38rQz_fzupfWPQMdoCZwVvWWLLxbYqxx7fAg
 Parfleche Envelopes(Saddle Bags) https://www.donaldellisgallery.com/offerings/plains/category/parfleche	 Modern Gun Case Photo by Michelle Hoffman
 Modern Food Containers https://www.google.com/search?q=Modern+Containers	 Parfleche Purse https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcR3TJFLZ3ZsxbuB9Tbkfp7b7mxutZGwec2RLmNFo8BQDrrZ-LSVlnQk&usqp=CAE&s



Day 2

1. Review Day 1- Parfleche video, list of questions, and the parfleche matching activity.
2. Teacher shares objective for Day 2- Work in groups to research parfleche, prepare parfleche presentations, and give parfleche presentations. Each group can present on one of the three topics. You will be given some information about your topic ahead of time, but you will have to do additional research to answer the questions that go along with your topic.

Group Presentation Rubric:

Requirement	Points Possible	Points Earned
All Group Members Participated	5	
All questions were answered	5	
Visuals were used	5	
TOTAL POINTS	15	

Group A-How is Parfleche Made?

How was parfleche made?

Was the parfleche the same when made with different animal hides?

Which hide do you think was the thickest?

Describe how the thickness in hides made the use of parfleche different.

Display and read together as a class.

Process for making Parfleche

1. Take hide off animal.



<https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:AND9GcQochoYxi7DqolPx2FrQck42aiUK4f1ZOhyMFUs5BNeiV3pOQiT5zfo&usqp=CAE&s>

2. Take the meat off the hide.



Photo by Andrea Abeyta

3. Soak the hide in clean water until hair comes off easy.



Photo by Andrea Abeyta

4. Scrape hair off the hide.



<https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:AND9GcT5RHKu1XDpvA3PUvhL7ZZKR5QPrb71X1YczA&s>



Shoshone Hide Scraper- Eastern Shoshone Cultural Center

5. Stretch the hide to dry.



Photo by Corn Abeyta

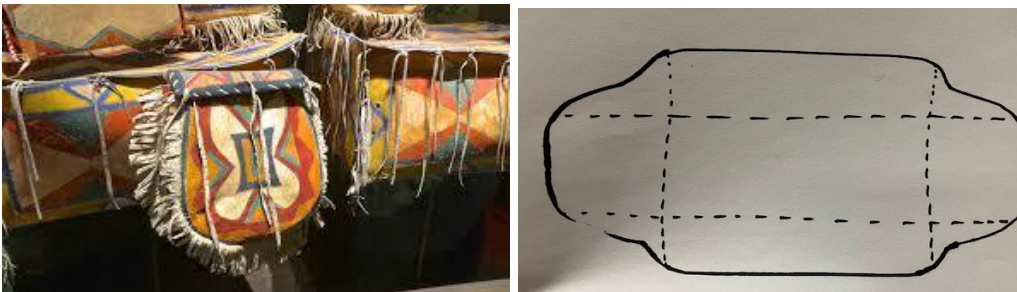
6. Paint hide with natural pigment paint and hide glue (Soak the hide while mixing paints)



Hide Glue

<https://encrypted-tbn1.gstatic.com/shopping?q=tbn:ANd9GcSkOGu7hkPHfMcKP4rBWJvkiMvZDO28R-kni2nH-VB1HJcwLpoaYk9TvEhvRHm3EQA1kuCSgPW>

7. Cut the hide to the shape of wanted parfleche container



https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcTH2s2YUFAU8c7_fzqpUsEMfA7fxi4deaA8Z5sTjafD6SXh1G9FeDGO&usqp=CAE&s
Pattern of Parfleche-Photo by Andrea Abeyta

8. Fold the rawhide to dry in shape of container using sticks or other objects to hold the shape while the hide dries.

9. Burn holes in rawhide for lacing with rawhide strips or buckskin.



https://media.istockphoto.com/id/178800030/photo/blacksmiths-hammer-working-a-heated-metal-rod-on-an-anvil.jpg?s=612x612&w=0&k=20&c=p56UNhD_bSubVFO0UkYJi394a2WXv8h50-3JCgaz6bg=

Natives sometimes used an awl that was traded by the trappers and put their own handle on awl or they used burning sticks to make holes in the raw hide.

Display and read together as a class.

How is Parfleche Used by Some Eastern Shoshone Today?

Picture of George Abeyta with his Parfleche tube for Bussels made by Gerimiah HolyBull.



Native American Fancy Dancer-George Abeyta photo by Jeb Schenck
Photo of Bustle case-Photo by George Abeyta



Pictures of Elk, Deer, Rabbits, and Mountain Sheep.



deer

elk

buffalo

Photo of Deer-Photo by Andrea Abeyta

Photo of Elk-Photo by Corn Abeyta

Photo of Buffalo-Photo by Corn Abeyta

Group B- How is Parfleche used by some Eastern Shoshones today?

How do some Eastern Shoshone people use parfleche today?

Where do the Eastern Shoshone People Live?

What kinds of Animals live in the area where they live?

Did all Native Americans use parfleche? Why or why not?

How is Parfleche Used by Enrolled Eastern Shoshone members today?

Picture of George Abeyta with his Parfleche tube for Bustles made by Gerimiah HolyBull.



Native American Fancy Dancer-George Abeyta photo by Jeb Schenck

Photo of Bustle Case-Photo by George Abeyta

Andrea Abeyta, an enrolled member of the Eastern Shoshone Tribe owns a Parfleche container used for her dancing feathers, bag to carry items when giving presentations, and a bow and arrow cylinder parfleche container made by her father, Corn Abeyta.



Photo of Parfleche Items-Photo by Andrea Abeyta

Photo of Bow and Arrows-Photo by Corn Abeyta

Pictures of belts and earrings made out of parfleche.



Photos by Andrea Abeyta

Group C-How is Parfleche a Form of Art?

Why did the Eastern Shoshone people put designs on the parfleche?

Where did the Eastern Shoshone get the paint used on the parfleche?

What was used for paint brushes when painting the designs on the parfleche?

Is Parfleche a Form of Art?

Students will describe how parfleche is a form of art for the Eastern Shoshone people. Pictures of the Shoshone Parfleche.



Photos of Parfleche displayed in the Eastern Shoshone Cultural Center

Pictures of where the Shoshones got some of their paint for the parfleche and how the paint was mixed. These are minerals found throughout the state of Wyoming. They would mix the minerals with hide glue.



Azurite

Yellow Ochre

Red Ochre

,Iron Oxide

Copper Oxide Hide Glue

<https://encrypted-tbn1.gstatic.com/shopping?q=tbn:ANd9GcSKOGu7hkPHfMckP4rBWJvkiMvZDO28R-kni2nH-VB1HJcwLpoaYk9TvEhvRHzm3FQA1kuCSgPW>

Explanation of why parfleche had geometric designs:

“Most of the men painted elk hides. Chief Washakie painted elk hides. The elk hide paintings were of animals and other pictures that told stories. The women painted the parfleche. These were simple designs because the parfleche was painted quickly. Some designs were family designs or what the artist was inspired to paint. Geometric designs were basic and easy to draw with the paints and hide glue that dried quickly. If they made a mistake, they couldn't erase it. It was easier for the colors not to mix if they used simple big geometric designs. We have a parfleche here in the cultural center with simple geometric designs.”

Zedora Enos, Eastern Shoshone Cultural Center Director



ASSESSMENT:

Students will take the provided assessment to check understanding of parfleche.

Question	Answer	Possible Points 5	Points Earned
Name 5 Ways Shoshones Used Parfleche	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.		
		Possible Points 3	
What are some animals the Shoshone used to make Parfleche?	1. 2. 3.		
		Possible Points 5	
What are some of the colors the Shoshones used to paint Parfleche?	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.		
		Possible Points 3	
Where did some of the paints come from?	1. 2. 3.		



COMMON CORE STANDARDS ADDRESSED IN LESSON:

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.7

- Integrate visual information with other information in print and digital texts.

Key Ideas and Details:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.3

- Explain events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

WYOMING STATE STANDARDS ADDRESSED IN LESSON:

Social Studies Standards - Grades 3 – 5 (2018)

Content Standard 2 - Culture and Cultural Diversity

Students demonstrate an understanding of the contributions and impacts of human interaction and cultural diversity on societies.

Rationale

Culture helps us to understand ourselves as both individuals and members of various groups. In a multicultural society, students need to understand multiple perspectives that derive from different cultural vantage points. As citizens, students need to know how institutions are maintained or changed and how they influence individuals, cultures, and societies. This understanding allows students to relate to peoples of local, tribal, state, national, and global communities.

SS.5.2.1 Identify and describe the ways groups (e.g., families, communities, schools, and social organizations) meet human needs and concerns (e.g., belonging, self-worth, and personal safety) and contribute to personal identity and daily life.

SS.5.2.2 Describe, compare and contrast ways in which unique expressions of culture (e.g., tribal affiliation, language, spirituality, stories, folktales, music, art, and dance) influence people.