

Classroom Connections

STUDIO WORKSHOPS | American Indian Patterns
Grade Level: 2–6

The
Nelson-Atkins
Museum
of Art



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

National Visual Arts Standards

- Media, Techniques and Processes (NA.VA.1)
- Structures and Functions (NA.VA.2)
- Subject Matter, Symbols and Ideas (NA.VA.3)
- History and Cultures (NA.VA.4)

Missouri Visual Arts Standards

- Product/Performance (MO.VA.1.3.C)
- Elements and Principles (MO.VA.2.1.B, 2.2.A, 2.2.D)
- Artistic Perception (MO.VA.3.2.A)
- Historical and Cultural Contexts (MO.VA.5.1.A, 5.1.B)

Kansas Fine Arts Standards

- Subjects, Symbols and Ideas from Other Sources (KS.FA.3)
- History and Cultures (KS.FA.4.2)

Common Core Standards

Anchor Standards for Reading

- Key Ideas and Details: 1,3

Reading Standards for Literature K-5

- Key Ideas and Details: 1

Reading Standards for Informational Text K-5

- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas: 7

Anchor Standards for Writing

- Text types and Purposes: 3

The following information will help guide you in selecting a Museum visit that connects to your classroom curriculum, and offers before and after visit suggestions to enhance your students' learning experience.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

Students discover patterns in artwork from various cultures including the American Indian Galleries. In the studio classroom, students create a *parfleche* utilizing colors, shapes and patterns inspired by the Museum's collection.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Describe and identify patterns in artwork from various cultures in the Museum's collection.
- Create a mixed media *parfleche* which includes the use of shapes, colors and patterns within the surface design.
- Identify a *parfleche* as being a functional piece of American Indian Art with aesthetic value.
- Identify and discuss symbolism in artwork as reflected in the Museum's collection.

COLLECTION FOCUS

- American Indian galleries

Additional stops may include;

- China, Japan and Africa

Certain collections or galleries may be unavailable due to rotations or construction. We apologize for the inconvenience.

4525 Oak Street | Kansas City, Missouri 64111
nelson-atkins.org

Studio Workshop Scheduler
StudioWorkshops@nelson-atkins.org

BEFORE and AFTER YOUR VISIT

- Read a book to your class about patterns. Some suggestions are: *Patterns Are Everywhere*, Adunagow Publishing. *Anansi the Spider*, Gerald McDermott. *The Singing Snake*, Czernecki and Rhodes.
- Collect a variety of objects found in nature such as; leaves, flowers, butterfly wings, wood, feathers, seed pods, etc. Using a magnifying glass or a loupe, ask students to look at the objects and find patterns which they can draw on paper. Compare and contrast these patterns with some that they observed while on tour at the Museum and decide if there are similarities.

VOCABULARY/CONCEPTS

- Balance:** *Asymmetrical* - Organization of a design so that unlike objects have equal visual weight
Symmetrical - Organization of a design so that elements are the same on either side of a central axis
Radial - Organization of a design so that elements branch out from a central point
- Pattern:** Decorative visual repetition (organized and random)
- Symbol:** Visual image that stands for or represents something else
- Shape:** An element of art that is two-dimensional and encloses space
Organic - An irregular shape or one that derives characteristics from nature
Geometric - Any shape having more mathematical than organic design such as; circle, square, triangle or rectangle
- Stencil:** A sheet of material with a shape cut out of it through which paint, ink or crayon is applied to transfer the shape onto another surface.
- Functional Art:** Works of art intended to be used in a practical way in addition to being aesthetically pleasing
- Border:** A decorative band that runs along the outside edge of a composition
- Parfleche:** A Native American rawhide bag



Parfleche Envelope, ca. 1885



Melissa Darden, b. 1968
Lidded Basket, 2007



Bag, ca. 1875

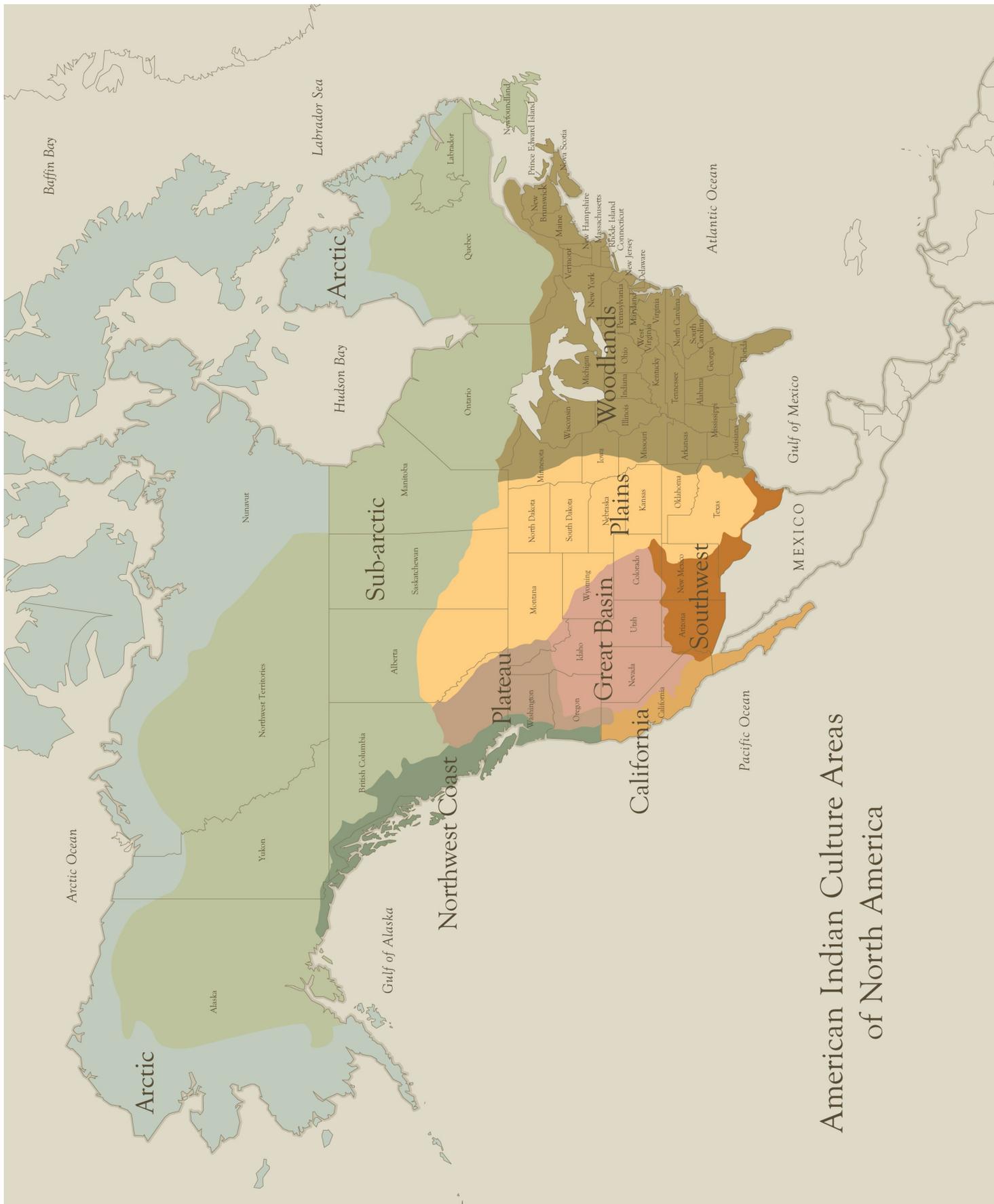


EDUCATOR RESOURCE CENTER

The ERC can help you expand your before and after visit activities to fully connect your museum experience with your classroom curriculum. The ERC provides:

- Curriculum consultations
- Circulating Resources
- Professional Development Workshops

nelson-atkins.org/education



American Indian Culture Areas of North America