

GETTING CREATIVE

Activity 6b

CULTURE 365 - GETTING CREATIVE SERIES

Presented in partnership with Dream Brokers

Grandfather's Seven Teachings Mobile with Phyllis Poitras-Jarrett

WHAT WE ARE MAKING TODAY

Rooted in Indigenous culture, the Seven Grandfathers' Teachings are: truth, honesty, courage, love, humility, wisdom and respect. These practices, meant to work together, are what the grandfathers say make a good life. For this project, Saskatchewan artist Phyllis Poitras-Jarrett links these teachings to the spirit animals. She has identified the Turtle as "truth",

the Crow as "honesty", the Bear as "courage", the Eagle as "Love", the Wolf as "humility", the Beaver as "wisdom" and the Buffalo as "respect".

Today, Phyllis will lead you through the steps to create your own Seven Grandfathers' Teachings Mobile.



Supplies Needed:

10 inch wooden hoop, burlap tape, spirit animal and flower patterns on card stock, hole punch, scissors, markers, tape, pony beads, feathers, 10 lengths of white string 12 inches long, and two lengths of jute string two feet long.

STEP 1

Colour the Spirit Animals and Métis Flower patterns provided with the markers or pencil crayons.

Cut out all the animals and flowers.



STEP 2

Cut out all the animals and flowers. Use a hole punch or your scissors to make a hole at the top of each animal.



STEP 3

Wrap the burlap tape around the wooden hoop until you have covered all of the wood.



IMPORTANT NOTE: By attempting this activity, you accept responsibility for your actions and indemnify SaskCulture, Sask Lotteries, contracted artists and/or its partners, officers, directors, employees, contractors, agents, volunteers against all claims, actions, suits, demands, losses, expenses, costs or damages of every kind.



For this and other Getting Creative videos, visit [SaskCultureInc YouTube Channel](#) or [SaskCulture.ca](#)



STEP 4

Tie a short string around where you tape ends on the hoop. This will keep it from unravelling.



STEP 5

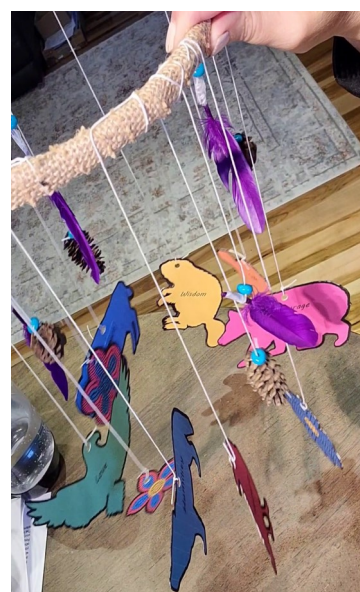
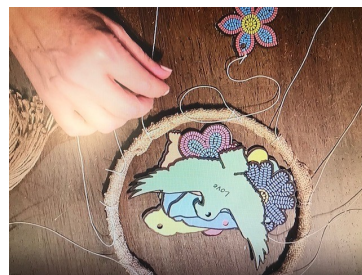
Cut out ten (10) lengths of string each 12 inches long.

Tie each string onto a spot on the hoop. You should have 10 strings evenly spaced all around your hoop.



STEP 6

Add in Spirit Animals and Flowers. Tie each of the animals and flowers to the end of a string. You should have 10 animals and flowers and 10 strings.



STEP 7

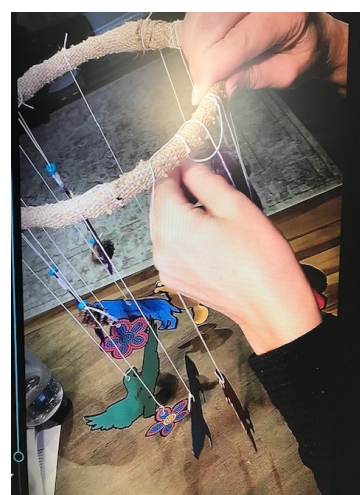
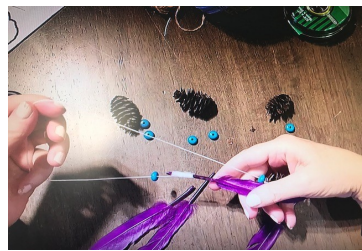
If you hold up the hoop, your strings and animals should all be hanging down. Adjust so they are evenly distributed around the hoop.



STEP 8

If you want, add in extra hanging art or found items.

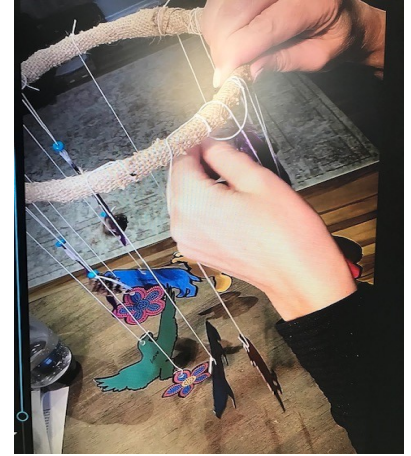
Cut out two strings of jute that are 12" long. At both ends of the jute string, attach a bead and tape on a feather. Do this for both strings. You can make more of these hanging pieces with other found items such as pine cones or wooden bangles.



For this and other Getting Creative videos, visit [SaskCultureInc YouTube Channel](#) or [SaskCulture.ca](#)

STEP 9

Hang your new creations over the wooden hoop. Wrap around the hoop until the items hang in a nice spot in the mobile – you decide.

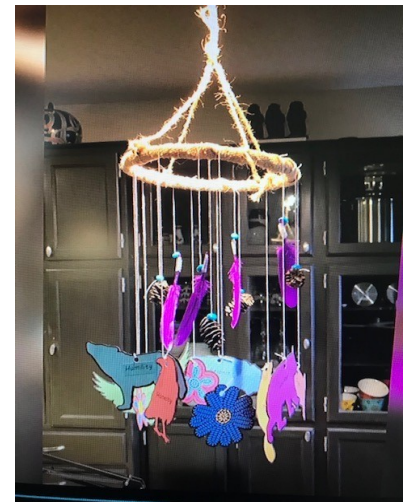


STEP 10

Next, take one of the long lengths of jute cord.

Tie one end of the cord to one side of the wooden hoop, from the top. Tie the other end to the opposite side of the hoop (at 12 and 6 o'clock). Do the same with the second length of cord, but tie them in between the first ties (at 3 and 9 o'clock).

Pull cord up into one cord and tie a knot at the top. This will be your hoop to hang your mobile.



STEP 11

Your Spirit Animal Mobile is ready to hang.

Find a hook, tree branch, railing where your mobile can hang and help others learn the Grandfather's Seven Teachings.



NEXT STEPS

Take photos of your completed work and send it to your Dream Broker. The artist would love to see your work, and SaskCulture would love to add it to a showcase of student expression.

If you have any questions about these projects, please contact your Dream Broker. Ask about trying another Getting Creative Project.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Phyllis Poitras-Jarrett is a Métis artist from Saskatchewan whose art honours the animals and plants that helped sustain the Métis and the other Indigenous peoples throughout history. A self-taught artist, Poitras-Jarrett is presently focused on mixed media acrylic paintings and textured Métis beadwork. Inspired by her kokum's creativity and determination, she has continued to connect her culture with her art. She has received support from SK Arts in the last few years for her work on spirit animals, as well as from Canada Council for the Arts, to create a short animated video. Visit www.metisspiritart.ca to find out more.



SaskCulture's work and support reaches lands covered by Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10, the traditional lands of the Cree, Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakota and Saulteaux peoples, as well as the homeland of the Métis.



