

Name:

Date:

Traditional Arts and Crafts

Native American Reading Comprehension Passage

Today, **Native American languages** continue to be spoken across the United States, although many have fewer speakers than they did in the past. There are hundreds of Indigenous languages, and each one reflects the unique history, culture, and traditions of a Native American Nation. These languages are an important part of community identity and cultural heritage.

Many Native American communities are working to preserve and strengthen their languages. Tribal schools, language classes, cultural programs, and community events help children and adults learn traditional words, songs, and stories. Elders often play an important role by sharing their knowledge with younger generations.

Many designs were inspired by **plants, animals, rivers, mountains, and the changing seasons**. Because every Native American Nation has its own history and customs, the meaning and style of artwork can be different from one community to another. These crafts help preserve cultural traditions and celebrate each Nation's unique heritage.

Today, **Native American artists** continue creating both traditional and modern artwork. Their work can be found in museums, cultural festivals, art markets, and tribal communities across the United States. Learning about Native American arts and crafts helps students appreciate creativity, cultural diversity, and the importance of preserving Indigenous traditions.

Vocabulary

1. Craftsmanship: _____
2. Heritage: _____
3. Beadwork: _____
4. Weaving: _____
5. Tradition: _____

Vocabulary

1. Which craft is mentioned in the passage?

- A. Glass blowing
- B. Pottery
- C. Metal welding
- D. Printing

2. What materials were often used to make baskets?

- A. Plastic
- B. Grass and plant fibers
- C. Steel
- D. Concrete

3. What often inspired Native American artwork?

- A. Cars and buildings
- B. Nature, including plants and animals
- C. Computers
- D. Sports

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4. Where can people see Native American artwork today?

- A. Only in history books
- B. Museums, festivals, and tribal communities
- C. Only at schools
- D. Only in parks

5. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Native American arts and crafts preserve culture and traditions.
- B. Every Nation creates the same artwork.
- C. Only pottery is important.
- D. Arts and crafts are no longer made.

Short Answer

1. Name three Native American arts or crafts mentioned in the passage.

2. Why did different Native American Nations create different artistic styles?

3. How do Native American artists preserve their traditions today?

Main Idea

What is the passage mostly about?

Text Evidence

Write one sentence or fact from the passage that shows Native American arts and crafts are still important today.

Answer Key

Vocabulary (Sample)

1. Craftsmanship – skill in making something by hand.
2. Heritage – traditions and history passed through generations.
3. Beadwork – decorative designs made with beads.
4. Weaving – making cloth or baskets by crossing fibers together.
5. Tradition – a custom passed from one generation to another.

Multiple Choice

1. B
2. B
3. B
4. B
5. A

Sample Answers

- **Short Answer 1:** Pottery, beadwork, weaving, baskets, wood carvings.
- **Short Answer 2:** They used local materials and followed their own cultural traditions.
- **Short Answer 3:** By creating artwork, teaching younger generations, and participating in cultural events.
- **Main Idea:** Native American arts and crafts reflect culture, creativity, and traditions that continue today.
- **Text Evidence:** *"Today, Native American artists continue creating both traditional and modern artwork."*