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Igloos to Adobe

# Exhibit Extras

Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, Harvard University

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## Breaking News!

A group of students visiting the Peabody Museum today received high praise from the museum staff.

“I have never seen a group of students that knew how to visit a museum so well,” said Director Jeff Quilter.

Who are these students? You! That’s because you

are following this list of the best ways to visit a museum:

- Use indoor voices
- Walk at all times—no running
- No food, drink, or candy in the galleries
- No touching, climbing on, or leaning on exhibits and cases
- Students and chaperones stay

- together in their group
- Respect each other and the other visitors in the museum
- If you have a camera, keep the flash off so the light does not damage the items on display
- Use this guide for fun activities, great stories, and lots of exploration!

THANK YOU!

## Native Peoples of North America Today

Millions of people identify themselves as Native Americans, American Indians, or Alaska Natives.

North America today is home to more than 500 native tribes or nations. Hundreds of native languages are spoken throughout North America.

Today many native artists continue to create objects in traditional forms and designs. Others create pieces that reflect or comment on contemporary culture. Wedding vase, Margaret Tafoya, Santa Clara Pueblo, n.d.; “Wazhazhipod” Ryan Red Corn, Osage, 1994, 2006.

The people of each native nation maintain and celebrate their unique language, dress, traditions, culture, and government.

Many Native Americans hold dual citizenship as members of both their tribal nation and the United States of America.

I am the logo of the Peabody Museum. For the Maya, I represent maize



# Name that State

The names of nearly half the states in the U.S. come from languages native to the Americas.

See if you can identify the name of the state based on these native words.

Word	Meaning	Language	State
quinnitukqut	“at the long tidal river”	Eastern Algonquian	_____
massachusett	“at the great hill”	Algonquian	_____
mnisota	“cloudy water”	Dakota	_____
misi-ziib	“great river”	Ojibwe	_____
ohi:yo’i	“large creek”	Seneca	_____

## What is NAGPRA?

As you explore the exhibits on the first floor, you may see a sign that tells you objects have been removed and returned through NAGPRA.

So what does this mean? The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) is a Federal law passed by Congress in 1990.

It “provides a process for museums and Federal agencies to return certain Native American cultural items—human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony—to lineal descendants, and culturally affiliated Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.”

Funerary objects are objects associated with burials or funerals. Sacred objects are objects necessary to perform traditional religious rituals. Objects of cultural patrimony are objects that are integral to the the cultural, traditional, and historical identity of a group or nation.

In 1999, the Peabody Museum returned a totem pole to the Saanya Kwaan Teikweidi clan of Tlingit people in Alaska.

Why?

The pole is an item of cultural patrimony and rightfully belongs with the members of the clan.

In thanks for returning the totem pole, the

museum was given a cedar tree. Tlingit master carver Nathan Jackson carved this tree into the Kaats’ and Brown Bear memorial pole you can now see on exhibit.

Find this memorial pole and read about its importance. If no other group is learning in the gallery space, explore the 5-minute video about the memorial pole and its journey to the Peabody Museum.



### Why are the lights kept low in the Hall of the North American Indian?

Many of the beautiful objects in this gallery are made from materials and dyes that would fade very quickly if they are near too much light.

Be patient! Your eyes will adjust to the low light. And by not needing bright light, you are helping the museum protect these objects far into the future!

# Food for Thought!

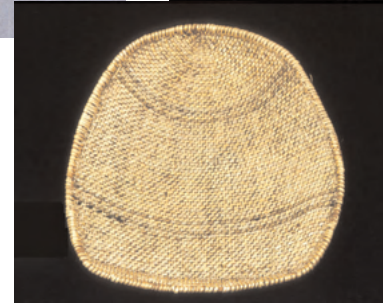
Many of the foods we enjoy today were first farmed, hunted, fished, and gathered by the native peoples of the Americas.

Here are just a few examples:

- Beans
- Blueberry
- Corn/maize
- Cranberry
- Maple syrup
- Pinon nuts
- Salmon
- Squash
- Sunflower
- Sweet potato
- Tomato
- Turkey

How many of these foods have you tried? Getting food to feed yourself and your family has always been important work.

As you explore the Hall of the North American Indian, see how many items you can find that were once used to grow, hunt, fish, gather, process, store, or eat food. Keep a tally below:



Above, Nez Perce fishing spear point; Tanana Sheep horn ladle; right Piute seed winnowing basket; below, Apache carrying frame.



# “Canoe” Explore Boats?

Many Native peoples in North America made and used many types of boats, canoes, kayaks, and umiaks. They used their boats to travel, trade, and for fishing.

As you explore the Hall of the North American Indian, keep a look out for model boats (be sure to look in the dioramas, too).

Try to figure out what materials were used to make the boats and keep track by listing them.

Discuss why boats used in different areas might be made from different materials.

Did you know that many of these model canoes were originally made to sell to tourists?

Boat materials:

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If you have time, or if other classes are using the gallery and you need to wait, travel up to the 4th floor and check out the boats on display in the Pacific Islands gallery.

What are these boats made from? You can even see maps made from sticks, plant fibers, and shells! Used by people sailing the ocean, they show water currents and islands.



Model of a Passamaquoddy birch canoe.

# Once Upon a Time ... The Three Sisters

Many native peoples in North America consider corn an important gift from the land. And many different stories explain the origin of corn and her sisters bean and squash.

In one, from the Nipmuc, a crow gives corn, beans, and squash – the three

sisters – to a young man during a time of starvation. The crow tells the man how to plant and care for the seeds.

Crows still visit fields to get their share of the corn, beans, and squash, for it was a crow that first brought them to the people.

How do the plants work together? Sister corn supports climbing sister bean. The leaves of sister squash provide shade and reduce weeds. And sister bean

adds the plant nutrient nitrogen to the soil.



## [Virtual] Travel

Want to learn more about Native North American peoples? Visit these websites!

[bostonkids.org/educators/wampanoag.html](http://bostonkids.org/educators/wampanoag.html)

[alutiiqmuseum.org](http://alutiiqmuseum.org)

[carnegiemnh.org/online/indians/index.html](http://carnegiemnh.org/online/indians/index.html)

[nmai.si.edu](http://nmai.si.edu)

[nativeyouthmagazine.com](http://nativeyouthmagazine.com)

Boston Childrens Museum: The Wampanoag  
Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository

Carnegie Museum of Natural History

National Museum of the American Indian

Native Youth Magazine

Want to share what you have learned and seen at the Peabody Museum with your friends and family?

The museum is open free to Massachusetts residents Sundays 9 am–12 noon and Wednesdays 3–5 pm (September–May)



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