

WHAT IS A STORY KNIFE?

Objectives:

Children will know: Children will understand traditional storytelling with story knives.

Children will do: Children will listen and watch a story knifing demonstration.

Essential Questions:

- What are story knives?
- How are story knives used in storytelling?

Enduring Understanding:

People use the tradition of story knifing to tell stories.



Standards:

- L1. Knows words and pictures carry message.
- L3. Listen to, enjoys, and actively participates in stories.
- L9. Understands language.
- L19. Understands writing has meaning.
- SSC2. Participates in multi-cultural art activities, song, & dance.
- SSC 3. Describes changes in, makes predictions about, & describes relationships between living & non-living objects & natural events.

Alaska Native Values:

Honor our elders, Learning by doing, observing, and listening, Family Relations and Unity, Practice of Native Traditions, Respect for others.

Materials:

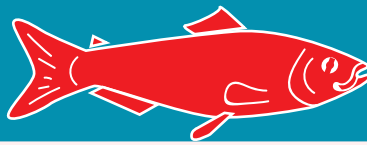
- Kinetic Sand
- Story knife Examples
- Picture of traditional story knife
- Wooden Clay Knife

Promoting Culture Self Assessment:

- I display pictures, posters and other materials that reflect the cultures and ethnic backgrounds of children and families served in my early childhood program or setting.
- I encourage and provide opportunities and experiences for children that support Alaska Native culture.
- I provide opportunities for children to share and learn traditional Alaska Native gross motor activities.
- I encourage and invite parents and community members to volunteer and assist with Alaska Native language and cultural activities.

Center Setup:

1. Set up pictures of traditional story knifing.
2. Print and have the images for the "The Giant Seagull".
3. Set out kinetic sand and story knives.
4. Hang essential questions in center where you can read them as children play.



Engage

Note:

: Before this lesson is taught, become comfortable with a story that you can demonstrate story knifing. Or use the example story included in this kit, "The Giant Seagull". If you would like, decorate your wooden story knife. If demonstrated outside, find a place beforehand that works well for demonstration, for example a nearby location with sand. If performed inside, set up kinetic sand in an area where students can watch you draw your story. If there is an elder that would like to demonstrate a story knife story that he or she is familiar with, invite them into the classroom to present.

"Hello Class!" Display a story knife. **"What do you think this tool is and what do you think it could be used for?"** Wait for responses. **"This is a story knife. Does anyone know what a story knife is?"** Wait for answers. **"Today we are going to learn about story knives and how they were used. Story knives are carved from wood, ivory, or bone, and are used to draw stories in mud or snow. These stories always teach a lesson about our lives, how to behave, and how to get along with others. This is the story knife I will use to draw a story for you today."**

Explore:

NOTE: If there is another traditional story you like to tell, feel free to use that as well. Be sure to keep the images and story simple so that students can follow.

Activity: 5 Minutes

Have students sit where they can see you demonstrate your story. Use the story example "The Giant Seagull," which is provided in the kit. Display each section of the story as you go along. Consult the example images for "The Giant Seagull" in the kit. Use the kinetic sand to draw your story, and erase as the story progresses, just as you would turn a page in a book. Ask students to make predictions along the way of what may happen next. After completion of the story, revisit the story by pointing the story images as you tell the story a second time.

Explain:

"How did my story knife help me tell the story?" Wait for answers. **"This story knife helped me draw the story, sort of like reading a book. What did you learn from this story?"** Wait for answers. **"This story teaches us to not wander too far from home and to listen to our elders. We learned this by LISTENING and WATCHING as I drew the story with my story knife."**

Center Setup:

Whole Group: Display essential questions. Display kinetic sand with shapes drawn into it.

Art center: Have students use different objects to draw in the sand. Use things like blocks, scissors, feathers, etc.

EVALUATION

Emerging:	Developing:	Proficient:	Advanced:
Student does not listen to story.	Student listens attentively to story but does not participate	Student listens to story and answers one question.	Student actively listens to story and engages in questions and discussion.

