Tools of Harvest

Connecting Through Play & Culture

BRIDGE

Borrow • Read • Investigate • Design • Grow • Explore

Attributions

The CHILD Family Kits are a collaborative project under the Cultural Heritage Improves Learning & Development (CHILD) curriculum.

This project was made possible by:

- Alaska Department of Education & Early Development: Pre-Elementary Grant (PEG)
- Office of Elementary & Secondary Education: Alaska Native Education Program

The contents are those of the author(s) and contributors. They do not necessarily represent the official views of, not an endorsement by, the U.S. Department of Education, the Alaska Native Education Program, the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, or the U.S. Government.

OFFICE OF
Elementary & Secondary Education

Beth Hill
Cultural Coordinator

Sawyer Hill
Dena'ina, Age 4

Tiffany Gifford
Project Coordinator, CSD

Brie Wallace
Graphic Design Artist

Esther Pepin
Early Learning Coordinator, BBBSD

Amber Kresl
Early Learning Coordinator, LPSD

Tanya Wimer
Early Learning Coordinator, CSD

BRIDGE - Borrow

Materials:

2 Books

Plush Berry Basket

Pretend Ulu

Now is a great time to practice counting skills by making sure all of the materials are in the kit!

1 2 3 4

Family Message

Preserving traditional ways of connecting with the land leads to mindful harvesting practices. When out collecting with your family, make meaningful time to celebrate your local surroundings and all it has to offer. Discuss favorite seasons for harvesting and create some delicious treats to share!

This kit includes:

- Books to explore different tools to use and items to harvest.
- A plush basket of berries for snuggling while reading together.
- An ulu for pretend play.
- BRIDGE cards to explore this theme.

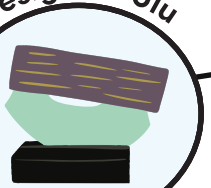
Enjoy this journey in learning about transportation!

Got 5 minutes? Read a story or choose a short activity.
If you have a longer amount of time, spend 20 minutes to complete the design activity.

Story Time

Using Tools

Design an Ulu



Career Connection

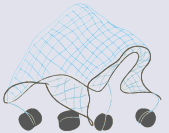
Scavenger Hunt:
Can you find the hidden harvesting tools throughout the cards?

Ulu

Canning Jar

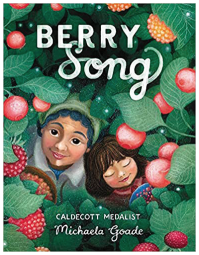
Basket

Skiff



Rock Weight

BRIDGE - Read



Berry Song

Author & Illustrator: Michaela Goade

Picture Walk

Flip through the pages, without reading words, to highlight the illustrations and ask these guiding questions:

- What do you think this story will be about?
- Where is the family harvesting in this image?
- How is this tool helpful when harvesting?

Sharing Stories

Find a comfy spot and snuggle up for story time!

Ask Engaging Questions

With whom do you like to go harvesting?

What could be harvested from your local waters, like in rivers or oceans?

How can we care for the land, as the land cares for us?

What tools are they using when out harvesting?

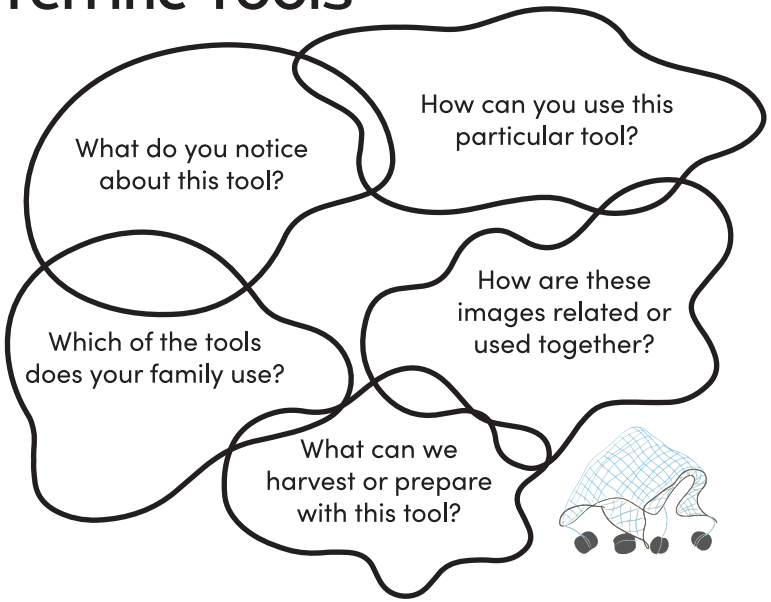
How do you connect with the land around you?

Create an engaging read-aloud experience by using the elaborate images to act out the activities throughout the story!

Hunting Tools

Author: Emma Pedersen

Terrific Tools

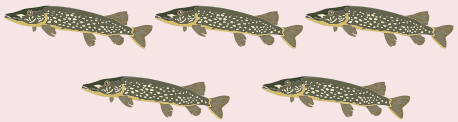


***Extra Tip:** Play charades and act out how to use the different types of tools!

Harvesting Math Stories

Create your own math stories with other tools from the book!

On a fishing trip, I caught 2 fish and my mom caught 3 more. How many did we catch all together?



We rode to our favorite berry picking spot. I found 5 blueberries. My grandmother ate 2 of them. How many berries were left?

I used an ulu to slice a halibut or salmon filet to share with someone. How many pieces can we each have?

<u>The 5 Math Areas</u>
Numbers & Counting
Patterns & Story Problems
Data Analysis & Probability
Measurement & Math Tools
Shapes & Spatial Awareness

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Vocabulary

Around the house or when reading stories together, describe and label items using traditional language.

BRIDGE - Investigate

Working Together

Harvesting is a cooperative event where everyone in the family has a job and a way to contribute. On your next harvesting trip, notice how everyone is working together to bring a bountiful harvest to the table!

Preparing Vehicles for a Trip

Cleaning or Packaging

Cooking the Harvest

Sharing with Others

Honoring Connections

Just as there are indoor rules, ways of being outdoors also exist. Have your child ask family or community members about rules they follow when hunting or gathering, such as being respectful of plants and resources, being aware of where they walk, taking only as much as needed, and listening and paying attention to surroundings.

Visit with someone and listen as they:

- Recall a time or memory when they went harvesting.
- Share details such as their favorite locations and with whom they share these gathering experiences.
- Discuss the importance of caring for the land.

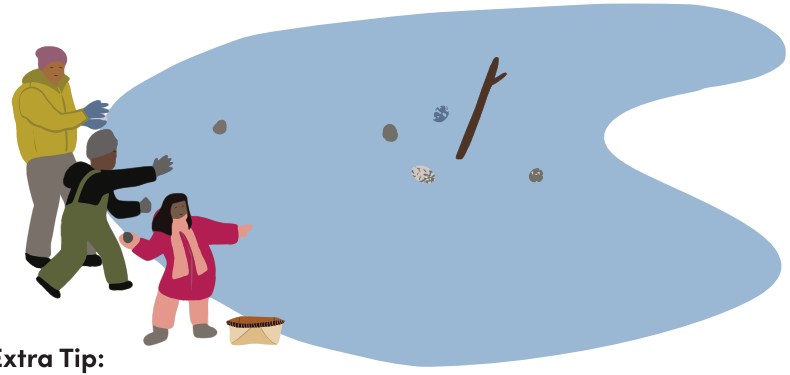
It's key to practice patience and mindfulness while out harvesting from the land!

Practicing Aim

Wood and rock were traditionally used to create tools for harvesting and living off the land. These materials were also beneficial in creating games to practice aiming skills.

Ice Bowling

1. Select a target (stick, rock, or chunk of ice) and slide it out across the ice.
2. Try to hit the target by sliding another piece of ice or a flat rock as close to the target as possible.
3. Practice your aim and play until someone hits the target successfully!



***Extra Tip:**

If you are in a different season, try throwing a stick into the water and use rocks to see who can hit the stick first!

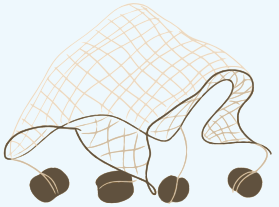
Materials to Make Tools

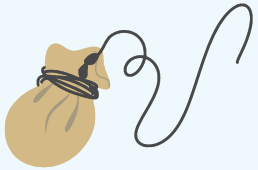
Tools were often made with different types of wood and rocks. Go on a scavenger hunt with your child to find different types, shapes and sizes of wood and rocks.

What 'tools' can you make or discover?

Bola

Some wood is used for tools to throw at birds and float in the water.



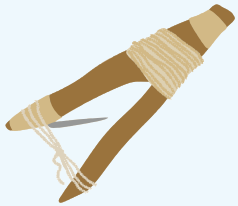


Weights

Some types of tools are made to sink and are used for weighing down nets in the water.

Halibut Hooks

This tool uses both, a type of wood that floats and a type of wood that sinks, to balance upright in the water.



BRIDGE - Design

U is for Ulu or Uluaq

"I like having my own ulu just like my mom! I can cut my play dough to make pizzas and cake when I play or even use it to cut real food like bananas. What will you cut with your ulu?"

See you next time! - Sawyer

...with STEAM

1 EXPLORE

Explore Differences: Pronunciation & Shape

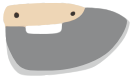
Use one of these designs to create your uluaq.

- Is the one you use at home shown here?
- How is it the same or different?
- What do you call it?

Nome

Barrow

Hooper Bay



Bristol Bay

Prince William Sound

Savoonga

Science

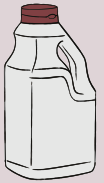
Scientists use different tools in their work.

Collect Materials

Cardboard

Scissors

Knife



Thick Plastic Container (soy sauce or popcorn jug)

Duct Tape

Markers

Ask your child whether each material is technology.
Have your child point to technology or not.

Guiding Questions:

Is it found in nature or invented by humans?
What is it made of? (discuss characteristics)
How is this tool helpful to humans?

Technology

Technology is human made instead of natural & is helpful to humans.

2 DESIGN

1 Make an Outline

Draw the outline of an uluaq from your region, or use one of the examples, as a template. Measure the width of your child's knuckles for the handle.

2 Shape the Uluaq

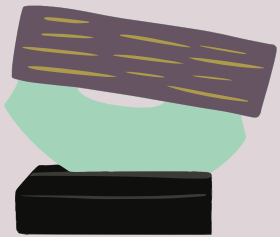
Make a rectangle slightly larger than the width of the top part of the uluaq, and large enough to fold over (around 4 Inches). Tape uluaq into place in the center of the rectangle handle.

Engineering

3 CREATE

3 Tape to Secure

Wrap tape around all sides of the handle to secure uluaq 'blade' tightly to the handle.



4 Practice Slicing

Have your child practice holding the uluaq and cutting with movement of the wrist and using slight pressure.

Display your uluaq & have it available for your child to cut soft items!

4 OBSERVE

Art Focus: Line & Thickness

In this activity, we discussed *line* as an element of art and how to create lines, merging lines, and line thickness. In creating the uluaq, we did several adjustments to create a blade with the correct thickness. Sawyer experimented with multiple blades made out of different plastics. Each material created different types of lines.

Lines can be curved, straight, wiggly, thin, thick, short, fat, etc.

Why is it important?

The art concept of *"Line"* defines the images or movement young artists are striving to create.

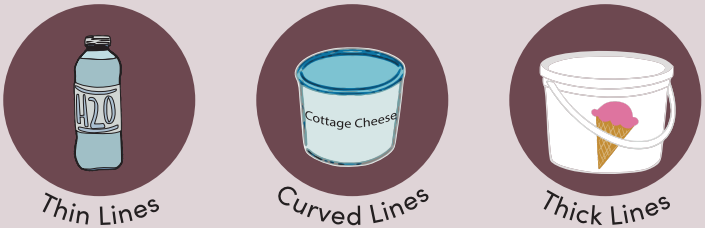
Art

Artists use line to create shape and form.

5 IMPROVE

Blade Thickness

Experiment with different types of plastics to create a variety of blades.



Try Something New:

- Investigate other types of plastic.
- Apply more pressure when cutting.
- Explore different methods for cutting your material.

Math

Line creates shape (2D) and form (3D) as part of geometry.

BRIDGE - Grow

When I Grow Up...

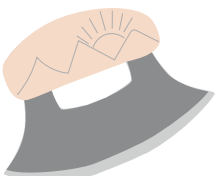
Alaska Native crafters make tools and art with traditional materials like ivory, fossilized mammoth bone, antler, baleen, and wood.

What is important to Artists and Crafters?

- **Job Safety**
  A crafter uses many sharp and dangerous tools. They must work carefully and take care of their tools.

- **Teamwork**
  They work with elders to learn their craft, then pass on that traditional knowledge to others.

- **Practice**
  Crafters need patience, practice, and perseverance to become skilled artisans that create strong and useful tools.



As I Grow...

I can use tools responsibly.

I can be an Artist and Crafter!

Career Artists and Crafters preserve traditional knowledge by learning and passing down their knowledge and skills.

Meet Eddie Leake

Alaskan Artist, Craftsman, and Ulu/Knife Maker • Fairbanks, Alaska • 18 years old

Knowledge & Materials

Eddie creates handcrafted ulus, knives, and carvings from materials harvested from around Alaska.

Eddie works with:

- Wood
- Walrus Ivory
- Bone
- Antler
- Baleen
- Mammoth Tusks

Aspects of the Job

He is practicing to become a better creator, so he can expand his business and provide people with well-made, traditional tools.

Eddie plans carefully to make the most of the materials he has collected and fixes mistakes to avoid any waste.

Meaningful Work

Eddie learned his craft from his adoptive father who was a carver for over 30 years. He enjoys the satisfaction of a finished product and seeing his work improve over time. He is proud to be an Athabascan Culture Bearer!

Challenges

Fixing mistakes can be challenging, but very rewarding as well.

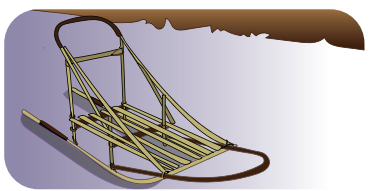
Purchasing all of the tools you need to start a business can be very expensive. Eddie takes good care of his tools so they will last a long time. He must also be very careful working with so many sharp and powerful tools.

BRIDGE - Explore

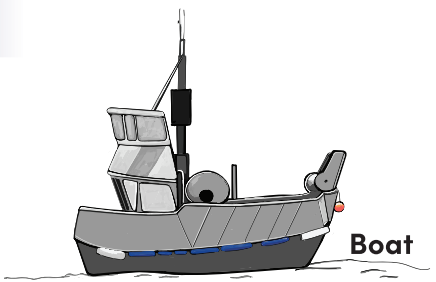
Explore the Language App!

Can you find these words?

Hunter



Sled



Boat

What to Explore Next?

We hope you have enjoyed this kit! Here are some ways you can continue to explore.

References

Goade, M. (2022). *Berry song.* Little, Brown & Company.

Pedersen, E. (2020). *Hunting tools.* Inhabit Media.

Alaska Department of Education & Early Development. (2019). *Alaska early learning guidelines.* Retrieved January 30, 2022, from https://www.alaskaelg.org/

Head Start Traditional Foods Preschool Curriculum. *Qaqamiigux.* (2017). Aleutian Pribilof Island Association. Retrieved June 12, 2023 from https://www.apiai.org/services/education/head-start/qaqamiigux-head-start-traditional-foods-preschool-curriculum/

child

Cultural Heritage Improves Learning & Development