

# LESSON #9

**Topic:** "Paper Bag Vest Making"  
**By:** K.H. Myran  
**Subject:** Language Arts/Social Studies/Art  
**Grade Level:** K-5  
**Time Allotment:** 45 minutes

## Objectives:

- Students will design and decorate a vest made out of paper bags and learn animal skins were originally used.
- Students will learn the significance of why vest were made and how they were worn.

## Materials:

- Copy of a "Creation Story"
- Cellophane tape
- Scissors
- Large brown paper grocery bag
- Yarn
- Crayons, paint and paint brushes or markers
- Optional--beads, yarn, feathers, ribbons, shells and/or coloured pasta to decorate
- Single hole punch

## Procedure:

- The teacher selects a creation story with emphases on the type of clothing worn for special occasions (for example: "decorated vests").
- Before telling the story, the teacher should be familiar with the story.
- The teacher should also explain that clothing once worn by different First Nations were also made from "animal skins" (for example, vests were made from animals like moose, buffalo, deer, and elk, to name a few).
- The teacher also explains that long ago many of these vests had fringes and the significance of the fringes (symbolized the "rays of light that come from each person's spirit"). The teacher reads/tells the story to students.

## Activity:

- The teacher lays out all materials for the making of the vests.
- The students are to open the paper bag and draw circles where the neck and arms will go (younger students, K-12, may need assistance).
- The students then draw a line up the centre of the bag for the opening in the front of the vest.
- The students then cut the centre line from the bottom of the bag to the neck circle. The students use the cellophane tape to reinforce each side of the cut.
- The students then cut the neck and arm circles.
- The students then cut some fringe along the bottom. The students can now decorate the vest with pictures and designs, using crayons, markers or paints.
- The teacher can draw some pictures and designs on the board to model for students. Be creative!
- The students carefully cut small holes (or use a single hole punch) at equal distances along each side of the opening in the front of the vest.
- The students cut pieces of yarn to tie each set of holes.
- The teacher will display all vests for all students to view.

### **Conclusion:**

- The teacher reviews parts of the story and asks students to recall:
  - i) What was clothing made from long ago?
  - ii) Why were fringes put on the vest? What is the significance of fringes?
- This should be done as a class discussion and wrap up o lesson.

### **Assessment/Evaluation:**

Completion of decorated vest by all students. Older students may write a brief paragraph about their "vest".