



TEACHING TIPS

for

Episode 1: American Indian Textiles

"I remember as a child, sitting on the floor beside my grandmother watching her weave, asking her, 'Granny, where did you learn how to do that?' 'Oh, my granny showed me and probably her granny showed her.'"

– Choogie Kingfisher, storyteller and Cherokee Nation National Treasure

New Tools in Living Archaeology Weekend's Educational Resources Toolkit

Now teachers can dig deeper into past technologies with their students!

The Living Archaeology Weekend Steering Committee is excited to provide teachers with our newest educational initiative in our award-winning educational program: *The Virtual Living Archaeology Weekend Video Series*. Our new series brings the Living Archaeology Weekend experience to you!

Since 1989, Living Archaeology Weekend (LAW) has provided visitors of all ages a program of high-quality, interactive demonstrations on American Indian and Pioneer technologies and lifeways, archaeological methods, and cultural resource preservation. The free event is held each September in the beautiful Red River Gorge of eastern Kentucky, home to many locally and nationally significant archaeological sites and historic properties.

To enhance learning before, during, and after the in-person event, the LAW Steering Committee has committed considerable time and resources toward developing thoughtfully prepared educational resources. With this new tool in the LAW education toolkit, educators can use episodes in *The Virtual Living Archaeology Weekend Video Series* in tandem with these supporting educational materials as a virtual field trip and learning experience.

About Episode 1 - *American Indian Textiles* Video and Supporting Educational Materials

In Episode 1 - [American Indian Textiles](#), archaeologist and textiles specialist Christina Pappas explains what is known about how ancient American Indians in Kentucky made textiles and demonstrates the methods that archaeologists use to study the technologies of the past. Choogie Kingfisher, honored in 2019 as a Cherokee Nation National Treasure for his work as a Cherokee cultural educator and storyteller, reflects on the importance of conserving cultural traditions and shares a brief history of the Cherokee people.

The supporting educational materials provide teachers with ideas on how to use the video as a springboard to address fourth- and fifth-grade Kentucky Academic Standards in Social Studies, Reading and Writing, and Visual and Performing Arts. The specific standards targeted by the Background Essay, Discussion Questions, Suggested Research Activities, and Lesson Plan are listed in the appropriate sections. This unit also addresses Social and Emotional Learning/Relationship Skills (Cultural Competency).

Connections to Episode 2 – *Pioneer Textiles* Video

Instructors can help students make many connections between *Episode 1 - American Indian Textiles* and *Episode 2 - Pioneer Textiles*. For example, students might compare and contrast the natural resources and the techniques used in textile production by both cultures. They could discuss why it is important to conserve cultural traditions.

Students also could discuss the different methods that archaeologists use to study the past. For example, why might oral traditions be more important than archival documents in studying ancient American Indian textiles? Why is it difficult to find textile artifacts from both the ancient American Indian cultures and the Kentucky Pioneer culture?

Organization of *American Indian Textiles* Supporting Educational Materials

These educational materials are divided into three groups: **Support Materials for Teachers**, **Support Materials for Use with Students**, and **Resource Materials for Educators and Students**. Students can access files in **Support Materials for Use with Students** with direct links, making it easy to adapt the unit for computer-aided or virtual instruction.

Support Materials for Teachers

- Background Essay for Student Reading: *About American Indian Textiles*
- Discussion Questions, Vocabulary, and Kentucky Standards - Teacher Version
- Discussion Questions and Vocabulary - Student Version
- Suggested Short Research Activity: *Connect Through Research: Natural Resources and Traditions* (on natural resources used by ancient American Indians to produce textiles)
- Suggested Extended Research Activity: *Going Deeper: Compelling Questions in Social Studies* (on the Trail of Tears, the Removal of Eastern Woodlands American Indians, and contemporary Cherokee nations)
- Hands-on Lesson Plan: *Connect Through Hands-on Experience: Experimental Archaeology - Making Cordage* (students learn to make cordage, replicating this ancient technology)
- Link to complete 15-minute video: Episode 1 - *American Indian Textiles*
- Links to shorter video clips used in the research activities and the lesson plan (direct links are also embedded in the activities and lesson plan).
 - [**Cultural Connections**](#) featuring Choogie Kingfisher
 - [**Evidence**](#) featuring Christina Pappas
 - [**Natural Resources**](#) featuring Christina Pappas
 - [**Weaving a Slipper**](#) featuring Christina Pappas

Support Materials for Use with Students

- Background Essay for Student Reading: *About American Indian Textiles*
- Discussion Questions and Vocabulary - Student Version
- Link to complete 15-minute video: Episode 1 - *American Indian Textiles*
- Links to shorter video clips used in the research activities and the lesson plan (direct links are also embedded in the activities and lesson plan)
 - [Cultural Connections](#) featuring Choogie Kingfisher
 - [Evidence](#) featuring Christina Pappas
 - [Natural Resources](#) featuring Christina Pappas
 - [Weaving a Slipper](#) featuring Christina Pappas
- Handouts
 - *Native Plants Information Sheets*, with handy details about native plants used by American Indians to make or dye textiles, for use in Short Research Activity
 - Image of [Removal Map](#), for use in Extended Research Activity
 - *Steps in Making Z-Twist Cordage*, diagram for use in Hands-on Lesson Plan

Resource Materials for Educators and Students

- Episode 1 - *American Indian Textiles* Script
- Choogie Kingfisher Interview Transcript
- Christina Pappas Interview Transcript
- *A Word About Ancient American Indian Textile Industries* Background Essay
- *A Word About Making American Indian Textiles* Background Essay

You may decide to use some of these materials with your students. For example:

- Students could refer to Episode 1 - *American Indian Textiles* Script to pull quotes or check facts. They also could use it as a springboard for writing their own video script if they want to share what they learned about native plants or about Indian Removal.
- Transcripts of the interviews with Choogie Kingfisher and Christina Pappas could be used in the same ways.
- The two background essays - *A Word About Making American Indian Textiles* and *A Word About Ancient American Indian Textiles* - provide additional information with excellent photos. They can be used as a supplemental reading assignment or as part of the research students conduct.