

NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATION FOR ALL RESOURCES

Partnership of IllumiNative and the National Indian Education Association



ILLUMINATIVE



Grade Level

PK-2

Subject

**Social
Studies**

Lesson Title

**Haudenosaunee Wampum
Belts**

Activity Description: In this activity, students will learn about the Great Law of Peace that created unity between the Haudenosaunee nations, and how that unity and peace translated over the creation of the Hiawatha Wampum Belt, and peace with the Europeans. Students will then have the opportunity to create their own Wampum belt to represent unity within their family and community.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Wifi Access (optional)
- [Youtube Video: "Haudenosaunee's Legendary Founding"](#).
- [Haudenosaunee Guide \(printable PDF\)](#)
 - Peacemaker Story (p. 2-3)
 - Hiawatha Wampum Belt Information (p. 6-7)
 - Wampum Belt Activity (printable PDF, p. 20)
- [Images of the Wampum Belt](#)
- Crayons, colored pencils, or markers

STEPS

This activity is for children to do with a person from the family or community, but it can also be done by the child alone.

1. Watch the YouTube video ["Haudenosaunee's Legendary Founding"](#).
2. Share with you child pages 2-3, and pages 6-7 of the [Haudenosaunee Guide](#), that talks about the "Great Law of Peace" or the "Peacemaker Story", and the significance of the Hiawatha Wampum Belt.
3. Show your child [photos of the Wampum belt](#), pointing out the individuals beads that make up the belt.
4. Print out and give your child the Wampum Belt Activity (on page 20 of the [Haudenosaunee Guide](#)).
5. Tell you child to create their own Wampum Belt designs using any colors they want to fill the squares.
 - a. Encourage your child to use symbols that may represent an event from their family, school, or community that it important to them.

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HELPFUL TIPS

- Share with your child that Haudenosaunee is a Native word and it means Six Nations, or the 6 nations that came together in unity, otherwise known as the Iroquois Nation.
- After watching the [Youtube Video](#), and reading the "[Peacemaker Story](#)", consider talking through how the Peacemaker created unity amongst the Six Nations, and how the Haudenosaunee people then created peace and unity with the Europeans by exchanging wampum belts and beads with Europeans.
 - Ask your child might create peace and unity within the family, or with their friends, including how they might get along better with other individuals in the family or create a more positive environment in the home.
- Show your child [photos of the Wampum Belt](#), and share that Wampum belts are recorded documents constructed from shell beads. The Haudenosaunee Hiawatha Belt is a visual record of the unity that was created amongst the Six Nations. The white and purple beads form symbolic designs that reflect significant events or a code of ethics, such as the "Haudenosaunee's Guiding Principles."

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Families and Educators: This activity may open other talking points around Haudenosaunee people and culture.

- The [Haudenosaunee Guide](#) provides more in-depth history and activities for your to share with your child.

Activity Resource Links:

- Haudenosaunee Guide: <https://americanindian.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/HaudenosauneeGuide.pdf>
- Youtube Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0elAQYLdfc>
- Images of the Wampum Belt: <https://ktvirtualmuseumproject.weebly.com/the-hiawatha-wampum-belt.html>
- Hiawatha Belt Information: <http://www.pbs.org/warrior/content/timeline/crisis/hiawatha.html>