

## Process Paper

We decided on doing the History Fair on the topic of Native American Pictographs because we were intrigued because it is something that we did not learn in school. Originally, we were stuck on what topic we should do our project on because we did not want to choose one that was generic and simple. As a result, we did some research and found topics such as the history of communication through clothing, telegrams, music, and more, but ultimately, we decided on pictographs. This is because we were also surprised to see that it has translated to being used in minor ways today such as with bathroom signs, which convinced us that the use of pictographs are still impactful to this day. In addition, after we came across this topic, we saw its connection to this year's History Fair theme as it was a way that Native Americans and Westerners communicated even with the barrier of knowing different languages.

Due to the circumstances and virtual learning, we had to rely on ourselves to find reliable resources. To start off, we looked for websites to get general background knowledge for our project. Afterwards, we tried to find secondary sources then moved on to finding primary sources. We used google scholar to find credible resources and books. This was difficult because the vocabulary was advanced and it was hard to acquire entire journals. Finally, we looked through many websites to find images that corresponded with our writing and the Library of Congress was extremely useful to do so.

To start, we debated on what medium would be best to convey our argument. We eventually decided on a website because we thought it was the smartest way to showcase images as we thought they were vital in understanding our topic. The NHD Web Central was at first very daunting, so we decided to watch some of the tutorials that the NHD provided. Thus, with suggestions from one of the videos, we began by developing a theme for our website and following that, we created multiple pages and worked on each page specifically every day by adding more and more information. When we were satisfied with the information we included, we started to add pictures and arrange everything to how it looked best.

Our historical argument encompasses the idea that Native Americans needed multiple ways to communicate and pictographs were one of the many methods they utilized. As Americans moved west and interacted with Native Americans, it became necessary for them to find ways to communicate despite their language barrier.

Finally, our topic is significant to history because the way Native Americans interacted with Americans through pictographs influenced the way we communicate in society today. This is one of the many forms of nonverbal communication in history and is one that directly translates to modern day. It is important to see that without current pictographs that are used, our lives would be different and there would be less emphasis on using symbols to communicate.