

Our Place in the World

This collection includes Native American, Prehistoric, Aboriginal Australian artworks and artifacts.

Their use of shapes are representative of the cultures in which they were made.

The objects were made largely from materials taken from nature, like leather, wool, plants, stone, and wood.

Beaded Vest



The first images in this collection show tradition things worn and used by members of several Native American cultures. The collection concludes with one Prehistoric European carving and an Aboriginal Australian musical instrument and two spear throwers.



Pair of Moccasins



These Arapaho moccasins are made of leather.

The colored beads make triangular, rectangular, and diamond shapes, which contrast with white beaded areas.



Dress



This Lakota dress is also made of leather and decorated with beads.

Move the cursor above the image to zoom in.

How many different shapes you can find?



Man's Jacket



The shapes on this man's jacket tell a story of life among the Lakota.

Parfleche



This is a leather case or parfleche made over 100 years ago by someone of the Hunkpapa Lakota people.

It has large, painted, geometric shapes.



'Eye-dazzler' Blanket



This Navajo blanket was made with dyed sheep's wool.

The traditional Navajo pattern of geometric shapes is called an "eye dazzler."

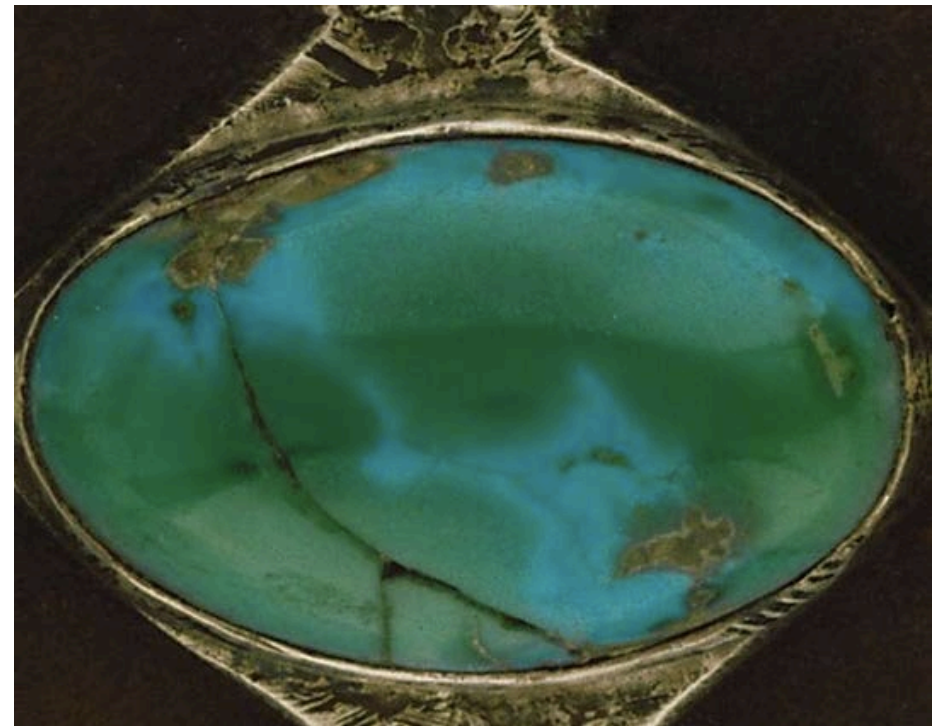
Wrist Guard (Ketoh)



This Navajo silver piece was made to protect the wrist.

It has curved shapes.

The oval stone in the center is a piece of turquoise dug from the ground in Nevada.



Coiled Basket



This Apache basket was made from plant fibers.

The rows of zigzag lines that outline the diamond shapes are made up of little rectangles.



Sun Mask



Look at the dramatic curved and angular shapes used in the Northwest Coast Native American mask.

It is made of painted wood with added pieces of metal.



Venus figure



Many thousands of years before there were countries in Europe, a prehistoric carver saw the shape of a woman in this rock and chipped it away to show her body.

Ceremonial Bull Roarer



This is a traditional musical instrument of the Australian Aboriginal people.

If you zoom in really closely you can see lines carved into the wood to make diamonds.

Spear Thrower



These are Australian Aboriginal wooden spears throwers.

Up close you can see shapes made up of lines in them also.

