


Drum creation



By: Anonymous Student



An elder and his wife with their two sons came to guide us on drum making. We had a choice on choosing different colours because they had different meanings.


Black = clarity, success

Blue = intuition, wisdom

Red = life, happiness

White = purity, spirit





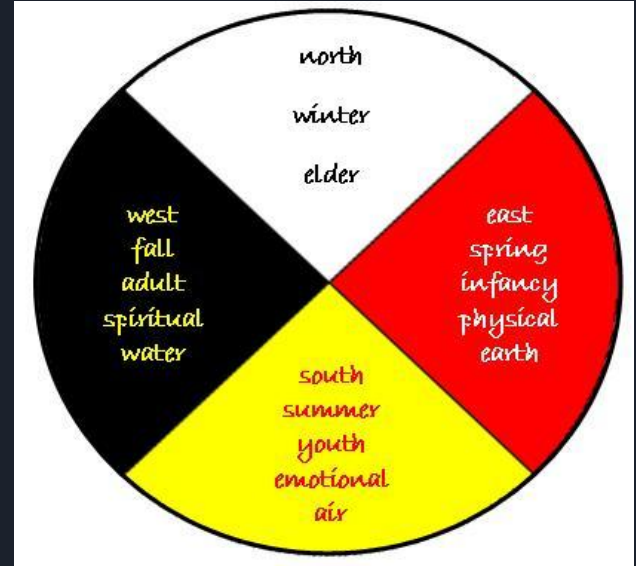
Before we started to make the drums, the elder talked about the meaning of the drums and the colours of the hides. After awhile of talking, he introduced his wife and sons. One of his sons sang us all a traditional song before we started to make the drums.



I am going to explain how we made our drums.

Step 1:

First we had to pick what color we wanted for the drum. Our choices were black, blue, red, and just plain deer hide. We chose blue for our drum. After that, we grabbed our materials. We needed a hide, a base, and three long strings of sinew.





Step 2:

We first had to moisten the deer hide that had holes close to the edge. Some holes were a few centimeters apart and some were an inch apart.



Step 3:

We had three sinew stings. The first thing we did with the strand of sinew was that we pulled the sinew in and out of the holes in the deer hide. We made sure the sinew wasn't too tight.



Step 4:

After we pulled the first piece of sinew through the holes, we put the base of the drum in the middle of the circle deer hide. Then we grabbed the other piece of sinew and we put that sinew through the gaps under the first piece of sinew.



Step 5:

Once we finished step 4, we then pulled the string to tighten it around the base of the drum. We had to make sure it would stay tightened, yet at the same time make sure it wasn't too loose or too tight.



Step 6:

After making sure it wasn't too tight or loose, we then put the third string on. We tie the third sinew onto the second sinew, then bring the third sinew to the far side of the drum and tie it. We then went back to the middle and made a 90 degree turn and repeated the process to make a handle that looks like an X. Leftover sinew was used to make the decorative middle part.



Step 7:

When we finished making the drums, we had to put tape around the drum to make some of the bumps on the side of the drum smaller so when it dries and the tape comes off they bumps won't be so big. They then took our drums so they can be dried and used in ceremonies at the school.

