

LIVING OUR CULTURES, SHARING OUR HERITAGE

The First Peoples of Alaska



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Smithsonian
Institution



ANCHORAGE
MUSEUM

OVERVIEW

For the first time, Alaskans – and, through the Sharing Knowledge website, people all over the world – can examine, study, appreciate and learn from the astounding creations of the indigenous peoples of the North as represented in the Smithsonian Institution's collections. The Living Our Cultures, Sharing Our Heritage: The First Peoples of Alaska exhibition produced by the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center at the Anchorage Museum brings together some of the finest cultural objects from Alaska and eastern Siberia, collected over 150 years by dozens of collectors and scientists.

This Teacher's Guide and website offer teachers, students, parents and lifelong learners a virtual entry into the exhibition through a series of classroom and research activities. Each Learning Experience leads to an exploration of the cultural knowledge, beauty and ingenuity that are made tangible through the Smithsonian collections, arranged in thirteen themes that cut across cultures and historic periods.

The guide can be used for independent teaching and learning in the classroom or at home. It can serve to complement a class or personal visit to the exhibition at the Anchorage Museum, offering both pre-visit orientation activities and post-visit explorations and classroom activities.



*Nussix
(Woman's Knife)*

TARGET AUDIENCES

This virtual Teacher's Guide contains activities and resources designed specifically for middle and high school classroom settings, and can be extended to home-schoolers and lifelong learning by college students and adults as well.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: You don't need a teacher to explore and learn from the site. Click on the Teaching tab for descriptions of the thirteen Learning Experiences. Undertake independent research as your interests lead you.

TEACHERS: Detailed instructions for facilitating thirteen Learning Experiences in the classroom, arranged thematically, are supplemented with links to relevant websites, assessment suggestions, and state and national standards. Each Learning Experience is designed according to the Understanding by Design (Backward Design) model. Click on the Teaching tab.

PARENTS: The instructions and information at the Teaching tab work equally well for formal classrooms and home-schooling parents and their children.

COLLEGE STUDENTS AND LIFELONG LEARNERS: Follow your interests and conduct your own research. Enter the website through the thirteen themes in the Teaching tab, or jump directly into descriptions and histories of the objects in the exhibit from the Website tab.



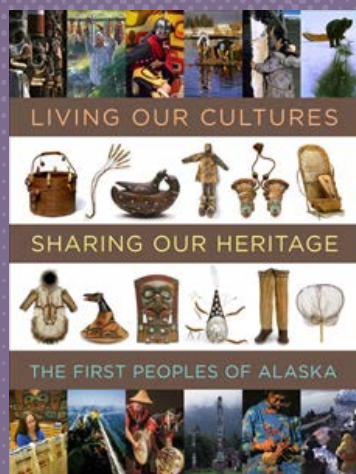
WHAT'S HERE?

MUSEUM TAB: Learn about the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center and its resources. See a photographic preview and floor plan of the Living Our Cultures exhibition. Learn about education programs and school visits to the Anchorage Museum.

WEBSITE TAB: Get an overview and link to the Sharing Knowledge website, where you will find detailed information about the objects in the exhibition and the cultures that produced them, as well as interview transcripts about the objects' cultural importance.

TEACHING TAB: Start with a brief description of the thirteen Learning Experiences that have been designed for middle and high school students. Choose those you want to explore and find detailed teaching strategies and activity ideas, vocabulary, links to other websites, lists of materials you'll need, assessment ideas, and Alaska and national academic and cultural standards.

RESOURCES TAB: Click here for a for a list of publications, guides and websites about Alaska produced by the Arctic Studies Center and the Smithsonian. Find subject-specific print and internet resources in each Learning Experience section, as well as under the Resources tab on the Sharing Knowledge website.



IN ADDITION TO THIS GUIDE ...

If possible, be sure to:

- Visit the exhibition
- Obtain the catalog for the exhibition as a companion to the website. The book is entitled *Living Our Cultures: Sharing Our Heritage: The First Peoples of Alaska*, edited by Crowell, Worl, Ongtooguk and Biddison (Smithsonian Books, 2010).

SMITHSONIAN ARCTIC STUDIES CENTER

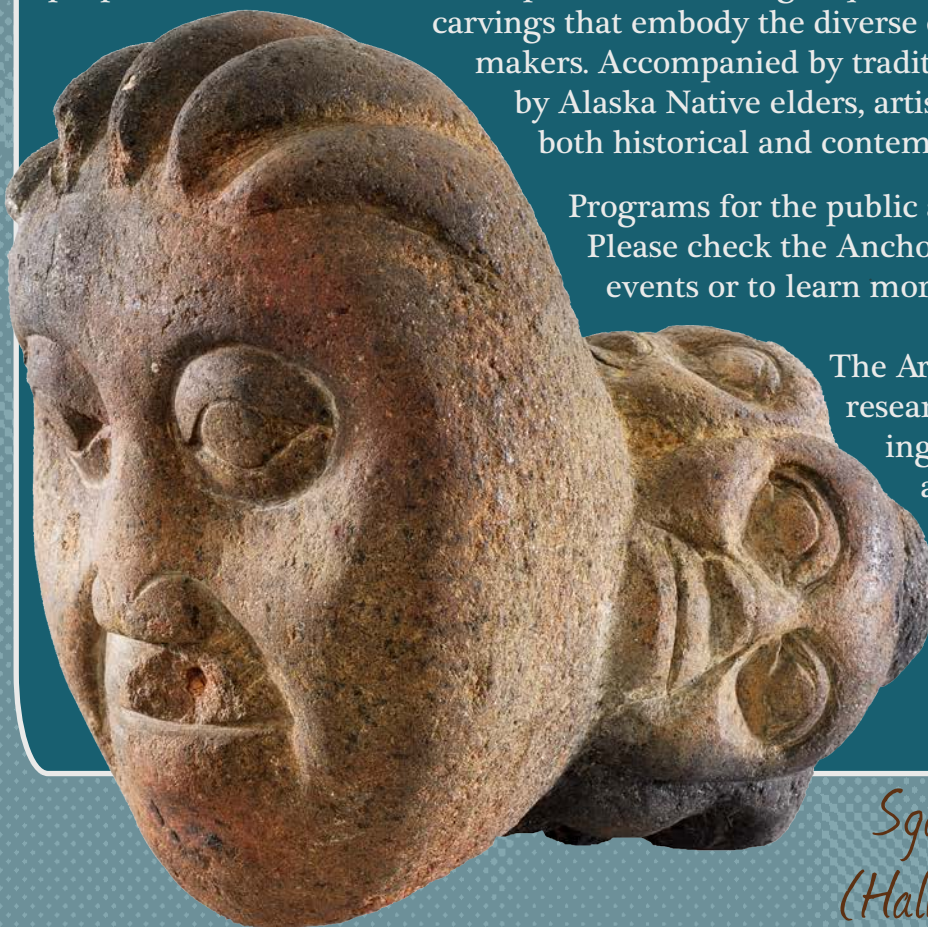
The Smithsonian's Arctic Studies Center, in partnership with the Anchorage Museum and a team of indigenous elders, scholars, educators and artists, has created a highly innovative multi-media exhibition that explores the vast and varied worlds of Alaska's First Peoples. More than 600 masterworks of Alaska Native art and design, all selected from historic collections at the National Museum of Natural History and National Museum of the American Indian, are presented in a visually stunning modern gallery. *Living Our Cultures, Sharing Our Heritage* utilizes video, text, photography, sound and interactive touch-screen media to present richly-layered indigenous interpretations of the objects as well as an exciting view of contemporary Alaska Native lifeways and values. Twenty different cultures are represented overall. The exhibit collection will serve as a resource for on-going study by Native artists and experts.

You can visit the project website *Sharing Knowledge* at <http://alaska.si.edu>. The site includes high-resolution images and detailed information for all of the objects in the exhibition and more, as well as maps and essays on Alaska Native and eastern Siberian peoples. There are also short films and tours providing additional in-depth information about objects and the peoples who made them.

The exhibition catalog *Living Our Cultures, Sharing Our Heritage: The First Peoples of Alaska* is available at the Museum and online, featuring over 200 illustrated objects and over 275 additional photographs and illustrations. After introductions to the history of the land and its peoples, universal themes are explored referencing exquisite masks, garments, basketry and carvings that embody the diverse environments and practices of their makers. Accompanied by traditional stories and personal accounts by Alaska Native elders, artists and scholars, each piece evokes both historical and contemporary meaning.

Programs for the public are underway with plans to grow. Please check the Anchorage Museum website calendar for events or to learn more about school programs.

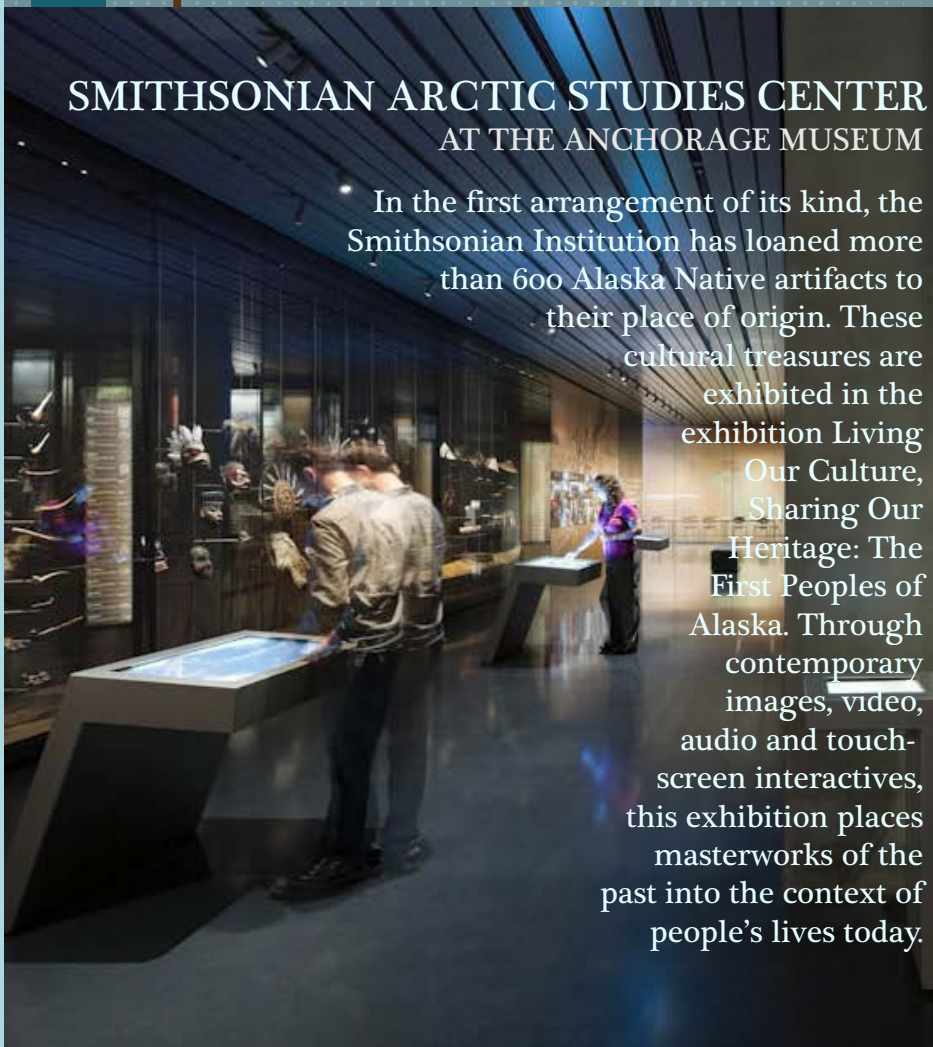
The Arctic Studies Center is a federal research and education program focusing on peoples, history, archaeology and cultures across the circumpolar North. The Center is part of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. In 1994, the Center partnered with the Anchorage Museum to open an Anchorage office.



*Sgan
(Halibut Sinkers)*

SMITHSONIAN ARCTIC STUDIES CENTER AT THE ANCHORAGE MUSEUM

In the first arrangement of its kind, the Smithsonian Institution has loaned more than 600 Alaska Native artifacts to their place of origin. These cultural treasures are exhibited in the exhibition *Living Our Culture, Sharing Our Heritage: The First Peoples of Alaska*. Through contemporary images, video, audio and touch-screen interactives, this exhibition places masterworks of the past into the context of people's lives today.

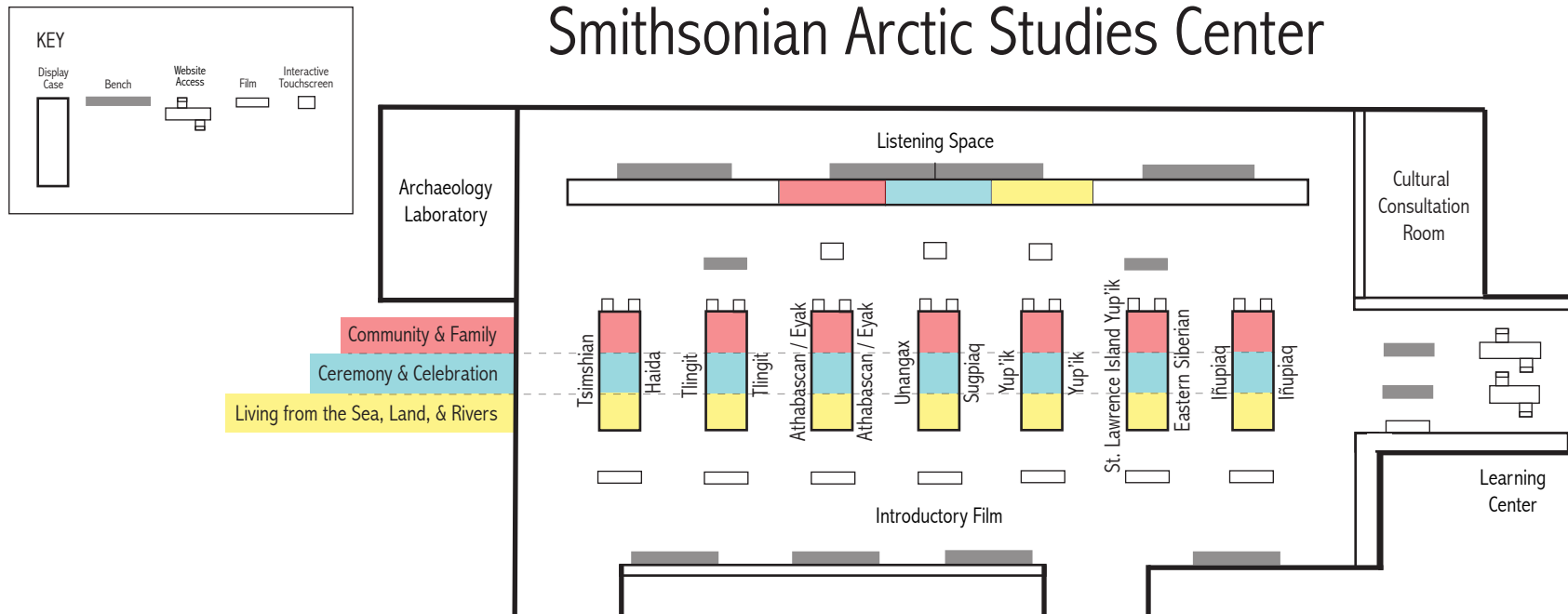


To contact the Arctic Studies Center:
write to 625 C St, Anchorage, AK 99501
email biddisond@si.edu
phone 907-929-9208

VISIT THE ANCHORAGE MUSEUM

The Anchorage Museum is located in downtown Anchorage, Alaska at the corner of 7th Avenue and C Street. To find out more about museum tours, go to www.anchoragemuseum.org/visit/tours

Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center



SCHOOL GROUPS: Now, more than ever, the Anchorage Museum is a multicultural and interdisciplinary field trip destination – bringing the best of Alaska to the world and the best of the world to Alaska. Through focused experiential learning combining art, history and science, teachers and students engage their senses and exchange a variety of Western and Indigenous ideas. The Education Department has developed a rich slate of art, history and science programs. Offerings include lectures, docent-led tours, classroom investigations, hands-on student classes, demonstrations, planetarium star shows and customizable self-guided adventures.

The Education Department aligns all programs and written curriculum to both the national and state standards. For more information on school programs and to download the Annual Educator Catalog, or for information on public programs, please visit the museum website at <http://www.anchoragemuseum.org/learn/learn.aspx> to learn more!

To Contact the Anchorage Museum:
write to 625 C St, Anchorage, AK 99501;
phone (907) 929-9200;
fax (907) 929-9290;
email museum@AnchorageMuseum.org

ALASKA NATIVE COLLECTIONS: SHARING KNOWLEDGE

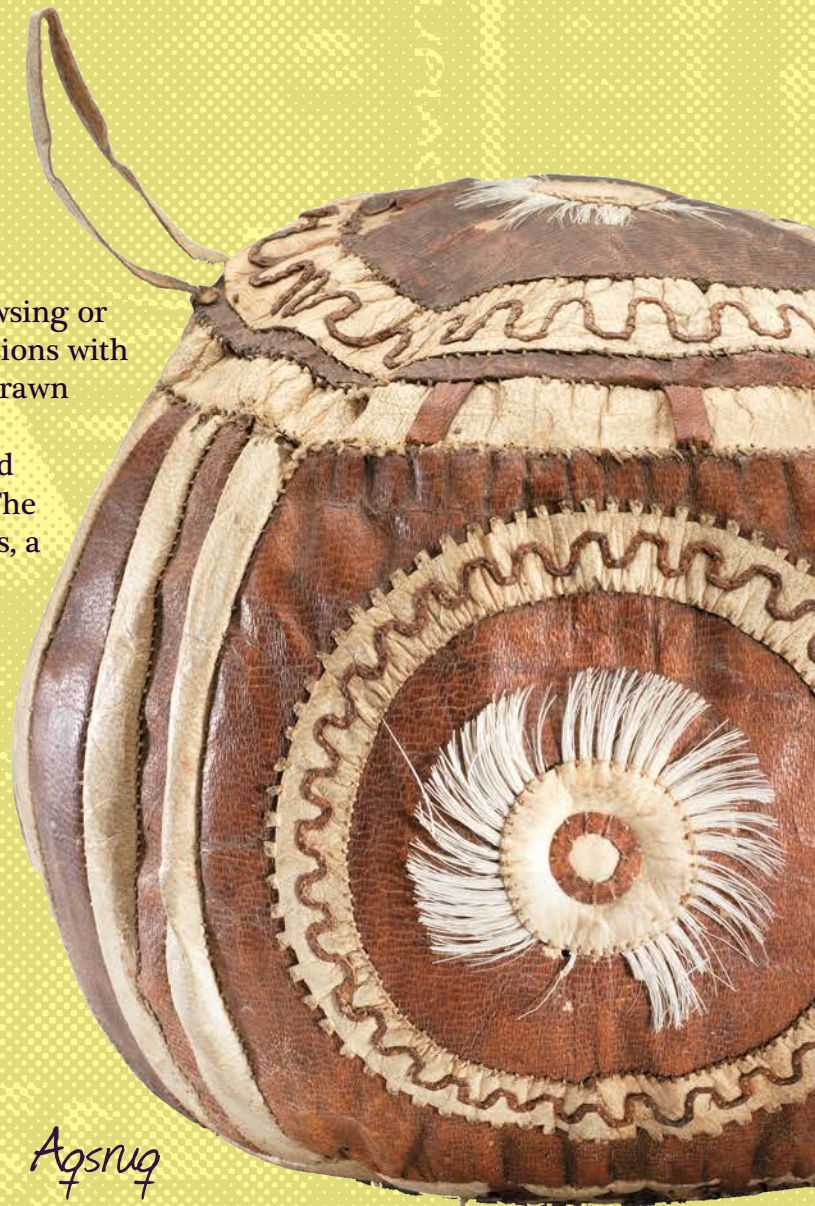
<http://alaska.si.edu>

The Sharing Knowledge website presents the collaborative work of indigenous communities from across Alaska and eastern Siberia with the Arctic Studies Center and the Anchorage Museum. Its resources interpret the materials, techniques, cultural meanings, history and artistry represented by objects in the collections of the National Museum of Natural History and National Museum of the American Indian. The goals of Sharing Knowledge are to make the Smithsonian collections accessible to all and to support cross-cultural learning among indigenous home communities, in schools and around the world.

Object records on the website – reached by browsing or searching – include edited transcripts of discussions with Native elders, artists and scholars; summaries drawn from history, anthropology and recorded oral tradition; object names in Native languages; and archival images that provide cultural context. The Cultures section includes regional introductions, a map and information about contributors. The Resources section offers reading materials and web links.

The Sharing Knowledge website will grow over time as more information is recorded and new contributors can be brought into the discussions. Please watch the site for updated materials and features.

*Agsrug
(High Kick Ball)*



LEARNING EXPERIENCES:

This guide presents 13 learning experiences designed for middle and high school students that will deepen and enrich their understanding of the peoples of the Far North. They are written for teachers, but all students and life-long learners should feel free to undertake the investigations on their own or as part of an independent study.

The topics are:



LEARNING EXPERIENCE 1: Geographic Study of the Peoples of the North

Examine the cultural map on the web site, then prepare a visual display that shows the linguistic and cultural relationships among the various peoples, then choose one cultural group to study in depth.



LEARNING EXPERIENCE 2: Natural Resources and How They Are Used

Explore the clothing you wear and learn about its manufacture. Compare these processes with those used in making clothing of the North.



LEARNING EXPERIENCE 3: Seasonal Knowledge, Yearly Cycles

Choose one or two culture groups and search the website to find information on the objects from those cultures. Select at least one item that relates to each season, then draw a poster that shows the seasons and depicts the seasonal items you chose for the seasons.



LEARNING EXPERIENCE 4: Living From the Land and Sea

Explore objects on the website that were used by people of the North to hunt on both land and sea. You will learn that every successful hunt is the result of good preparation and is followed by efforts to process and preserve the food and to share it.



LEARNING EXPERIENCE 5: Traveling

Explore the website for information about how, where and why the peoples of the Far North traveled in pre-contact days.



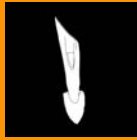
LEARNING EXPERIENCE 6: Northern Clothing: Designed for Extremes

Examine your own clothing choices and identify the factors that help you decide what to wear in any given situation. Then examine traditional articles of clothing made by the indigenous peoples of the North and learn about the construction and materials used in their manufacture.



LEARNING EXPERIENCE 7: Children in Northern Cultures

Learn about the ways children prepare for adulthood through formal and informal education and activities. Make a replica of a toy or game from the site and teach younger students how to use it.



LEARNING EXPERIENCE 8: Whaling Traditions

You will learn how art, ceremony and spiritual beliefs are integral to Native whaling traditions of the Bering Sea, Arctic Ocean and Gulf of Alaska. Take the virtual tour “Whaling Traditions” with a study guide in hand. At the end of the tour, choose one object that relates to whaling and compose a story about it.



LEARNING EXPERIENCE 9: Northwest Coast Ceremonial Art

Study the aesthetics and ceremonial use of clan objects from the three Northwest Coast cultures represented on the website: Tlingit, Tsimshian and Haida.



LEARNING EXPERIENCE 10: Ceremonies

Explore the website for information about ceremonies that were and are important to northern peoples. Examine, in-depth, one object that was used exclusively for ceremonies.



LEARNING EXPERIENCE 11: Division of Labor by Gender

Examine the collection to determine the respective roles of men and women in the traditional societies of the north. Consider the complementary nature of the division of labor in these cultures.



LEARNING EXPERIENCE 12: What Is the Nature of the Universe?

Learn about the European cosmological systems described by Aristotle, Ptolemy, Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, St. Thomas Aquinas and others. Compare one of those representations with your own ideas of the nature of the universe, which you in turn compare with the universe as understood in the indigenous cultures of the north.



LEARNING EXPERIENCE 13: Non-Human Beings

Read the exhibit script, cultural essays and a traditional tale about the relationship between people and non-human beings. Explore your own ideas about the relationship between humans and non-humans.

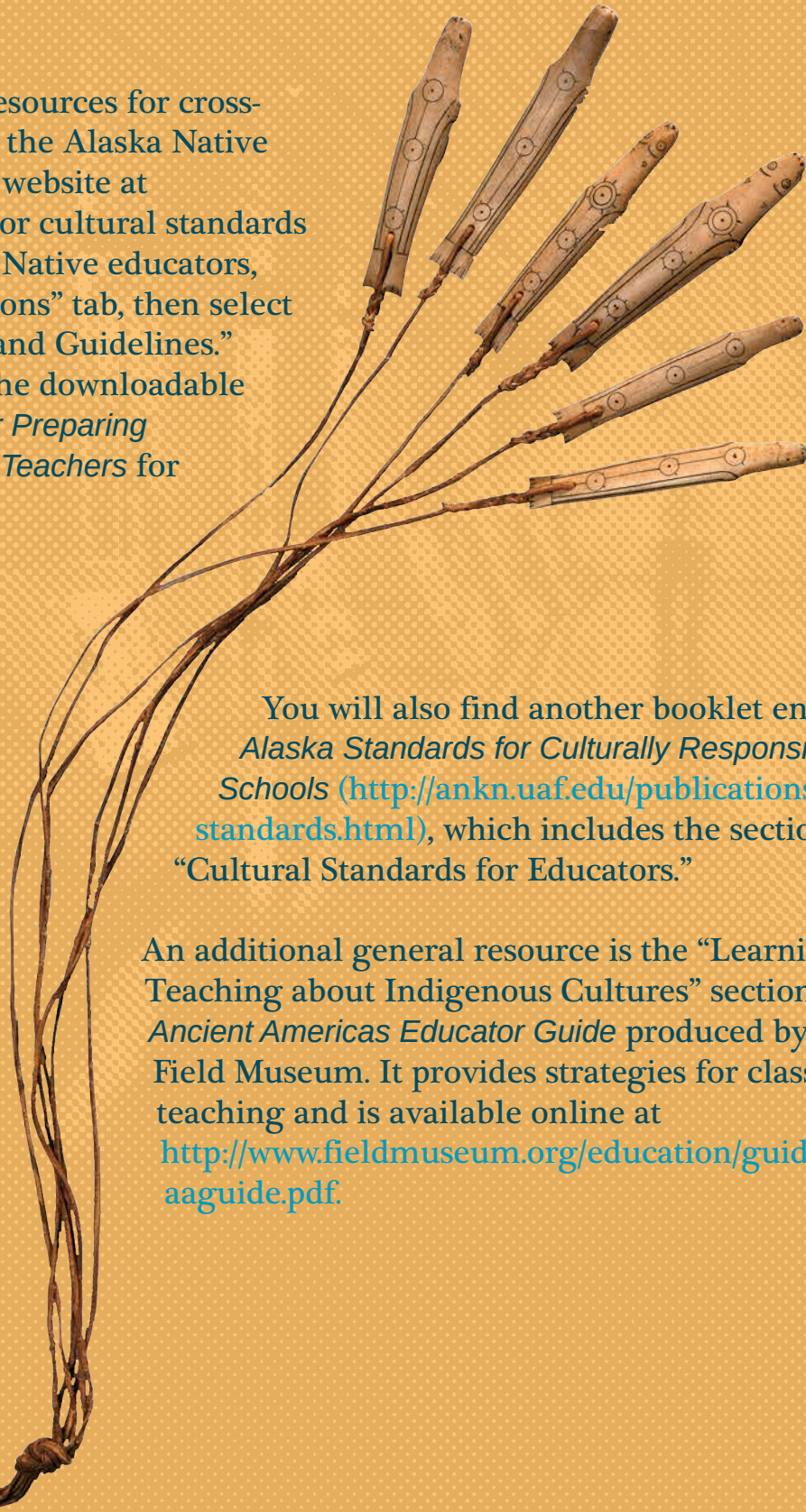
CROSS-CULTURAL EDUCATION RESOURCES:

You can find many resources for cross-cultural education at the Alaska Native Knowledge Network website at <http://ankn.uaf.edu>. For cultural standards developed by Alaska Native educators, choose the “Publications” tab, then select “Cultural Standards and Guidelines.” There you will find the downloadable booklet *Guidelines for Preparing Culturally Responsive Teachers for Alaska's Schools* (<http://ankn.uaf.edu/publications/teachers.html>).

You will also find another booklet entitled *Alaska Standards for Culturally Responsive Schools* (<http://ankn.uaf.edu/publications/standards.html>), which includes the section “Cultural Standards for Educators.”

An additional general resource is the “Learning and Teaching about Indigenous Cultures” section of *The Ancient Americas Educator Guide* produced by The Field Museum. It provides strategies for classroom teaching and is available online at <http://www.fieldmuseum.org/education/guides/aaguide.pdf>.

Tinmiagniasutit
(Bolas)



For each Learning Experience lesson, you will find references to additional resources including publications and websites specific to the topic. Below are general Alaska resources from the Arctic Studies Center and the Smithsonian that you will also find useful.

BOOKS:

- *Living Our Cultures, Sharing Our Heritage: The First Peoples of Alaska* (2010); edited by Aron L. Crowell, Rosita Worl, Paul C. Ongtooguk, and Dawn D. Biddison. Note: This book is the catalog for the exhibition and serves as a companion to the website. You will find references to it in each Learning Experience.
- *Looking Both Ways: Heritage and Identity of the Alutiiq People* (2001); edited by Aron L. Crowell, Amy F. Steffian and Gordon L. Pullar.
- *Agayuliyararput (Our Way of Making Prayer): The Living Tradition of Yup'ik Masks* (1996); by Ann Fienup-Riordan.
- *Crossroads of Continents: Cultures of Siberia and Alaska* (1988); edited by William W. Fitzhugh and Aron Crowell.
- *Inua: Spirit World of the Bering Sea Eskimo* (1982); by William W. Fitzhugh and Susan A. Kaplan.

GUIDES:

Looking Both Ways: Heritage and Identity of the Alutiiq People – Tools for Teachers (2001); Patricia Partnow, Alaska Native Heritage Center & Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center (booklet, video & CD-ROM available upon request from the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center)

Smithsonian In Your Classroom: Teaching from Objects and Stories – Learning about the Bering Sea Eskimo People (1998): Smithsonian Office of Education (booklet available upon request from the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center)



Yuktuktaak (Snow Goggles)

WEB SITES

- Sharing Knowledge: Alaska Native Collections
<http://alaska.si.edu/>
- Looking Both Ways: Heritage and Identity of the Alutiiq People of Southern Alaska
<http://www.mnh.si.edu/lookingbothways/>
- Agayuliyararput: Our Way of Making Prayer (Yup'ik Masks)
<http://www.mnh.si.edu/arctic/features/yupik/index.html>
- Crossroads of Continents
<http://www.mnh.si.edu/arctic/features/croads/index.html>

*"Esghallghilnguq,
Nagaqullghilnguq,
Nanghillghilnguq,
Nalluksaghqag."*

*("What you do not see,
Do not hear,
Do not experience,
You will never really know.")*

- Iyaaka (Anders Apassignok, St. Lawrence Island Yupik)
Sivugam Nangaghnegha Siivanllemta Ungipaqellghat
(Lore of the St. Lawrence Island: Echoes of Our Eskimo Elders)