

**Preserving Indigenous Culture & Tradition**

**Symbolism: finding Identity through Beadwork & Tradition**

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White Oak High School

2023-2024 World View Global Fellows Program

Guest Artist/Speaker: Raquel Painter

Onslow County Veterans Pow Wow

**Overview of Lesson:**

Students will learn about North Carolina Indigenous culture, tradition, symbolism, and beadwork. Students will have the opportunity to collaborate with an Indigenous artist to spark their inventive minds. Students will sketch a beadwork design incorporating a specific tribe, history, and identity symbol. Students will sew their design as a medallion. Students will write a reflection based on the visiting artist, their own process, expression through creating, symbolism and the final product. Students will present their identity symbol medallion to the class, discussing why they created the symbol and how they felt designing and creating.

**Suggested Grade Level(s):**

Grades 9-12th

**Subject(s):**

Visual Arts & Fibers



Figure 1

# Preserving Indigenous Culture & Tradition:

## Symbolism & Finding Identity through Beadwork

### OVERVIEW OF LESSON:

Students will learn about North Carolina Indigenous culture, tradition, symbolism, and beadwork. Students will have the opportunity to work with an Indigenous artist to spark their creative minds. Students will sketch a beadwork design incorporating a specific tribe, history & identity symbol. Students will sew their design as a medallion or earrings. Students will write a reflection based on the visiting artist, their own process, expression through creating, symbolism & the final product. Students will present their Identity symbol patch to the class. Relating their Identity symbol, Indigenous history & own history.

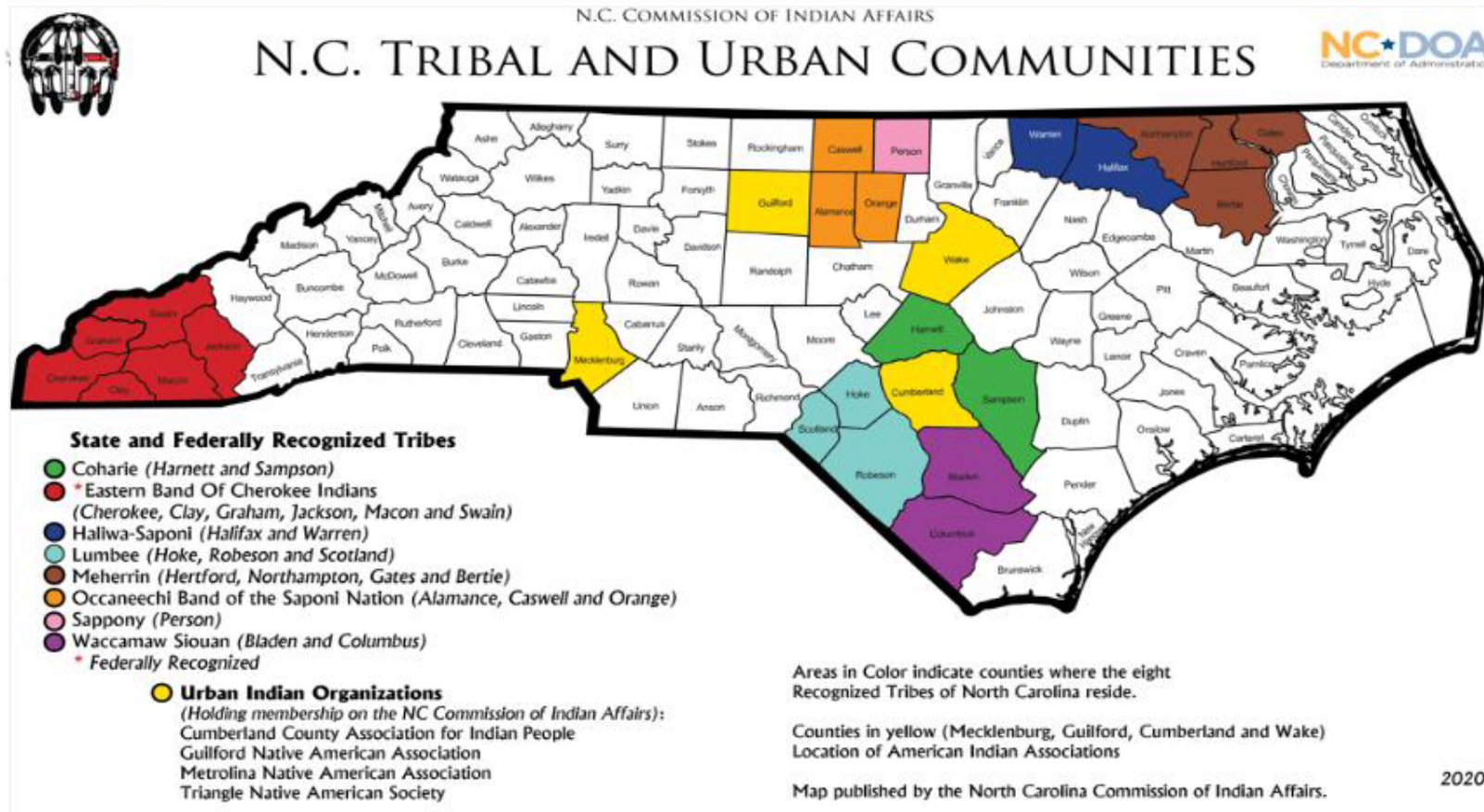


Figure 2

[Presentation:](#)  
"North Carolina  
Heritage  
Commission"-Map,  
Tribes & Urban  
Communities



**ONSLOW VETERANS  
POW WOW**

**November 4 & 5 2023**

**Presented by**

**GEICO MILITARY**

Proudly serving the Military since 1936.

**Figure 3**

[Website:-](#)  
Onslow Veterans Pow Wow

# Festival Details - "Onslow Veterans Pow Wow"...

This Pow Wow in Jacksonville, NC is the only celebration located in Eastern Carolina. They are bringing together tribes from across the country to share and celebrate their culture through dance and Native culture stories. What is a Pow Wow? A pow-wow is a way for Native Americans to come together, sing, dance, and socialize to honor their culture. The tradition stems from tribes that settled in the Great Plains, forming intertribal alliances. These alliances allowed for the exchange of ceremonies, songs, dances, and ceremonies specific to the tribe. They were creating the historical foundation for the Pow Wow. Native American Veterans come together and carry the United States Flag, Tribal Flags, a POW Flag, and Eagle Staffs. Native Americans honor the United States flag in this tradition, acknowledging the honored position and respecting it as a symbol of the country they are a part of. See this tradition come to life at the Onslow Veterans Pow Wow! Attend the Jacksonville NC Pow Wow For the second time in two decades, Onslow County is giving Native American Veterans a chance to celebrate and honor their culture. Pow wows are commonly closed to the public, but the Pow Wow Jacksonville NC is a two-day event open to the public. Visit the American Legion Fairgrounds to help celebrate. What to expect at the Pow Wow Jacksonville NC Jacksonville tourism is promoting our Onslow Veterans pow wow and planning the cultural celebration. The Onslow Veterans Pow Wow provides a cultural experience for residents to participate in and learn from a broad representation of Native American tribes. When you attend the pow wow near me, expect delicious food from Native vendors, exciting Native dance, music, and drumming. Also, enjoy seeing a tour of the traditional Native American tipi. Onslow Veterans Pow Wow | Jacksonville NC Everyone should experience a pow wow like the Onslow Veterans Pow Wow at least once in their life. With this information, take advantage of this two-day free event to celebrate Native American Culture. Search for pow wow near me and help honor and celebrate a new culture. Visit our website or pow wow Jacksonville NC Facebook page to receive more information regarding our celebration!

Figure 4

[Website:-](#)

Onslow Veterans Pow Wow



Figure 5



Figure 6

[Website:-](#)  
Onslow Veterans Pow Wow

## Ms. Painters Medallion Example



Figure 7

[Website:-](#)  
Onslow Veterans Pow Wow

Figure 8



Figures 9 and 10

[Website:-](#)  
Onslow Veterans Pow Wow

## Medallion Example



Figure 11



## Medallion Example



Figure 12

## Additional Medallion Example

<https://welcomenativespirit.com/collections/necklace>

<https://www.craftycrawford.com/physicalitems>

<https://www.faire.com/search?q=Native%20American%20medallion>

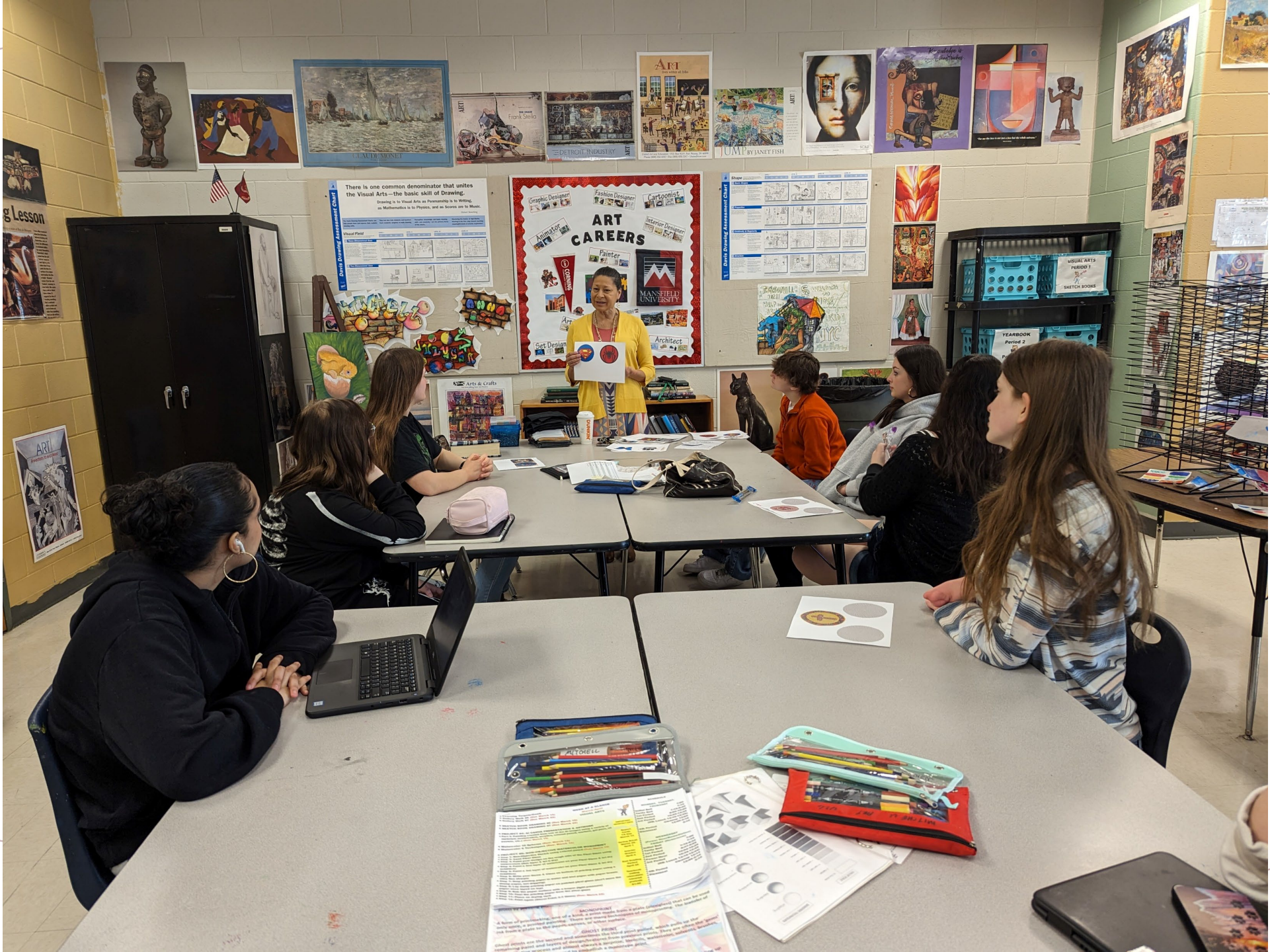


Figure 13

Ms. Painter speaking to my Fibers class. Introduction.



Ms. Painter speaking about Native American History, Medallion meaning "Circle of Life."

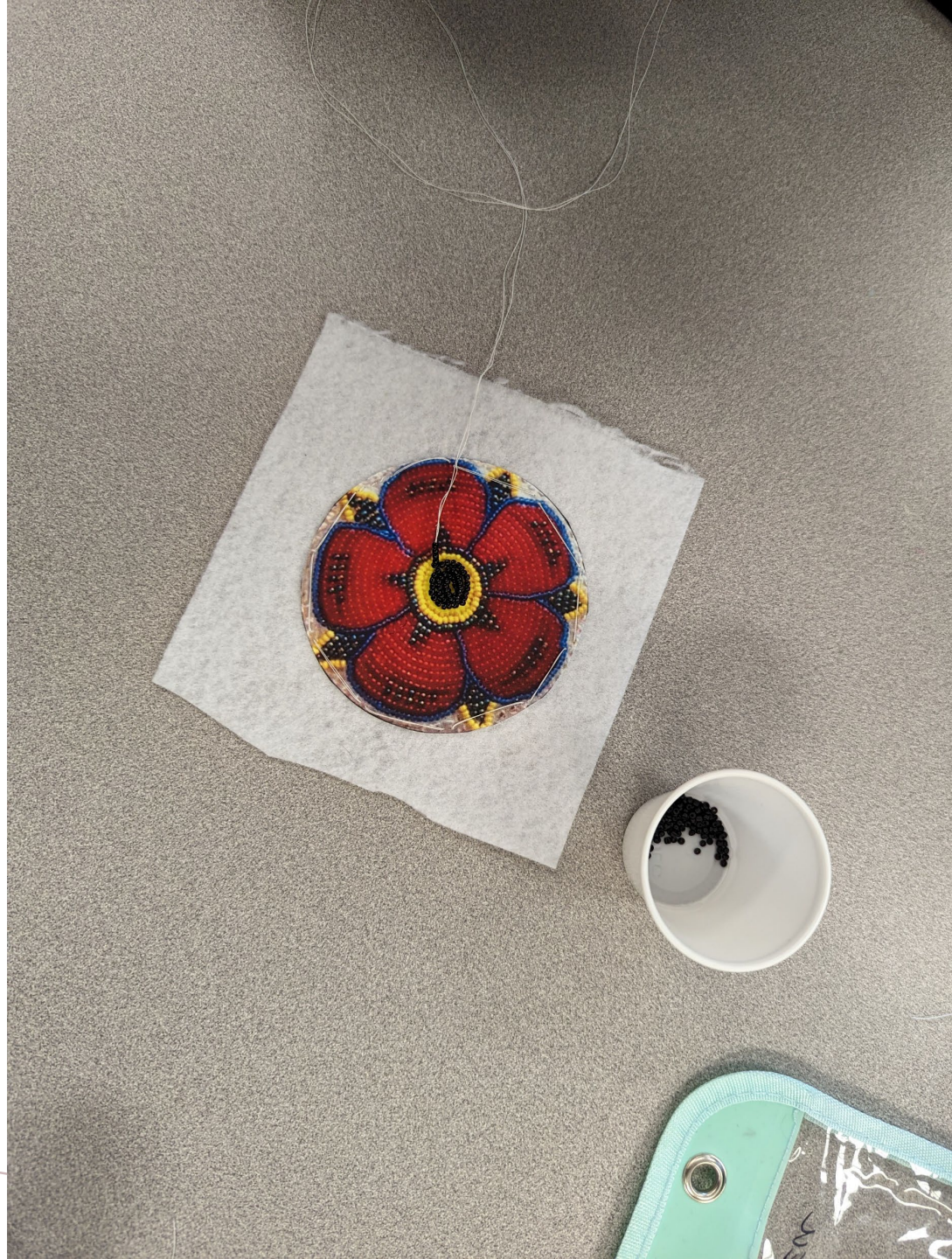
Figure 14



Figure 15

Student Medallion designs and patterns.

Figure 16



Student  
Medallion  
with pattern.

Figure 17



Final Student  
Medallion

## Credits for Visuals

Figure 1. Photographs take by author, Korey Mitchell. Permission granted to use.

Figure 2. NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. NC American Indian Heritage Commission. *2023 American Indian Heritage Month Toolkit*. <https://aihc.nc.gov/ncaihc-american-indian-heritage-month-toolkit/open>

Figures 3-10. Images used with permission from <https://www.onslowpowwow.org/>

Figure 11. Yellowstone National Park, National Park Service, public domain  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/yellowstonenps/51690664292>

Figure 12. National Park Service, Oct 2020. Indigenous Artistry: Mario Harley  
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