

Southeast Alaska Discovery Center

Art to Go – Inuksuk

An inuksuk is a structure of stones, often stacked in the form of a human figure, traditionally used by Inuit, Inupiat, Yupik, and Kalaallit peoples as landmarks or commemorative signs. These stone landmarks can be found in northern Canada, Greenland, and Alaska. They are usually found above the arctic circle in areas dominated by open expanses of tundra.

In this art project you will create a unique artwork that includes your own inuksuk design on background made from a map or a landscape picture.



Supply List:

- Scissors
- Cardboard backing
- Map or picture
- 8-10 rocks or bark pieces
- Glue (hot glue works best if using rocks)
- String



Notes:

- ✓ Finding the “perfect” rocks – look for a variety of thin rocks that will stick to the background easily.
- ✓ The rocks can also be replaced with dry bark. It is important that these also have been given time to dry before using.

Inuksuk Art Instructions:

1. Take a walk on the beach or along a stream. As you walk look for rocks or bits of bark that are thin, with at least one flat or smooth surface that can be glued to the background.
2. Wash your stones in warm soapy water to remove loose dirt and sand. Allow your rock to dry in a warm place.

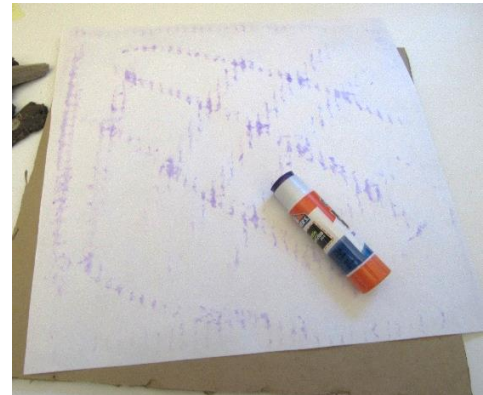


a.

3. Cut your cardboard backing into a square or rectangle.
4. Cut your map to the same shape and size of your cardboard backing.



a.



5. Glue the map to your cardboard.
6. Add the string hanger to the back of your artwork, by stretching it across the cardboard and gluing or taping it securely on each end.



a.

7. As your glue dries arrange your rocks or bark into the shape of your inuksuk. Be creative every inuksuk will be unique and can be any shape or have as many or few parts as you would like.



a.



8. Using hot glue or school glue, stick your parts in place on your map background. You can place your inuksuk anywhere on the background.
9. Inuksuk are signs that mark special places or point the way on a journey. Write a couple of sentences on your 3x5 card telling about a special place. Glue the card to the front or back of your artwork. You could also add photos or other special items to your art.

a.



10. Allow the glue to dry completely before hanging.