National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Knife River Indian Villages
National Historic Site

PO Box 9
Stanton, ND 58571

701/ 745-3300 phone
701/ 745-3708 fax

Folded Parfleche

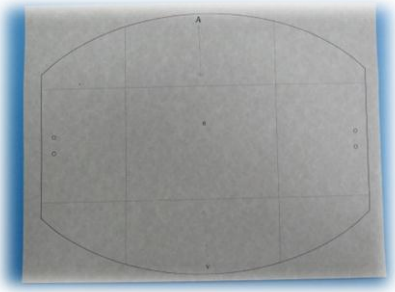
Directions for 1 Folded Parafleche

Materials:

- A copy of the folded parfleche pattern on tan or beige card stock
- Scissors
- Your choice of crayons, markers, colored pencils, or paint and paint brushes
- Hole punch
- Pencil
- Ruler
- *optional*: If you have access to pattern blocks or tangrams they may be useful in creating geometric shapes for a design.
- String or colored yarn (beige, red, or blue)
  1 piece 10”
- Time and patience

Directions:

1. Please read all instructions before starting this project.
2. Trace or make a copy of the folded parfleche pattern on tan or beige card stock.



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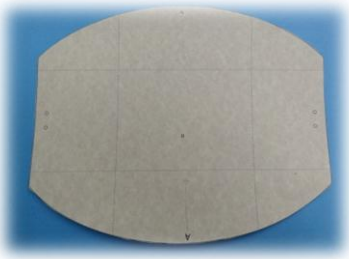
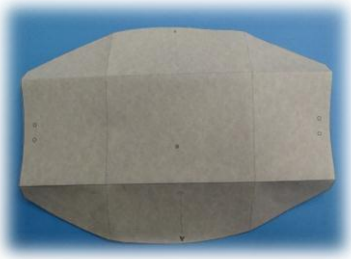
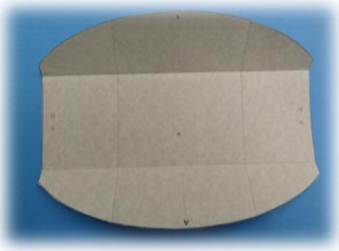
3. Use a scissors to cut out the folded parfleche pattern following only the solid **BLACK** lines.

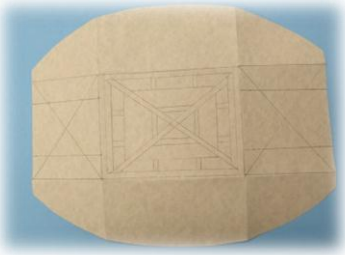


4. You will fold on the dotted lines using them as your guide. (*Note: I folded so I could see the lines on the outside, and then reversed the folds when I was done so they were on the inside).





5. Using a pencil and a ruler, or your pattern blocks or tangrams, design the pattern you would like on the blank side of the folded parfleche.



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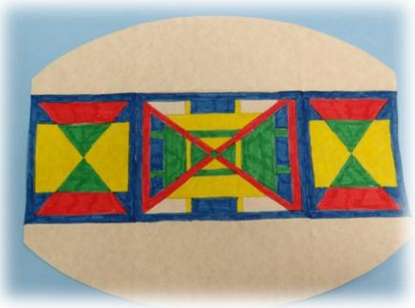
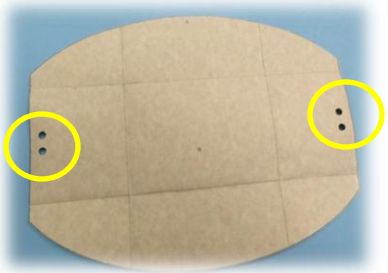
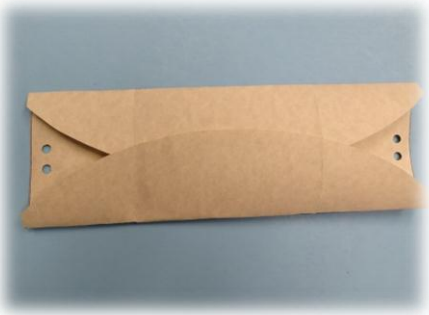
6. Color your design. The colors typically used were blue, red, yellow, green, brown and black.



7. Following the pattern on the inside of the folded parfleche use the hole punch to punch the four holes. Be careful not to get too close to the edges.



8. Fold (A) on both sides so they fold toward the middle where (B) is.



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9. Put the string or yarn through the two holes at one end, so the ends come through on the colored side, fold that part towards the middle.

10. Fold the other end toward the side with the string or yarn. Put the string or yarn through the holes. It will come out on the colored side.

11. Tie the string or yarn to keep your folded parfleche closed. (Note: Be gentle when stringing and tying as you can rip the card stock if you are not careful).

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Notes:

*Be gentle when lacing the box parfleche and tying as you may pull too hard and break through the paper near the holes you made.

* You may enlarge the pattern if you would like to make a larger folded parfleche. You will need a longer string or yarn for a larger pattern.

*By using stiff paper such as card stock, your pattern will be studier than that of copy or construction paper and give one the idea of how stiff rawhide is.