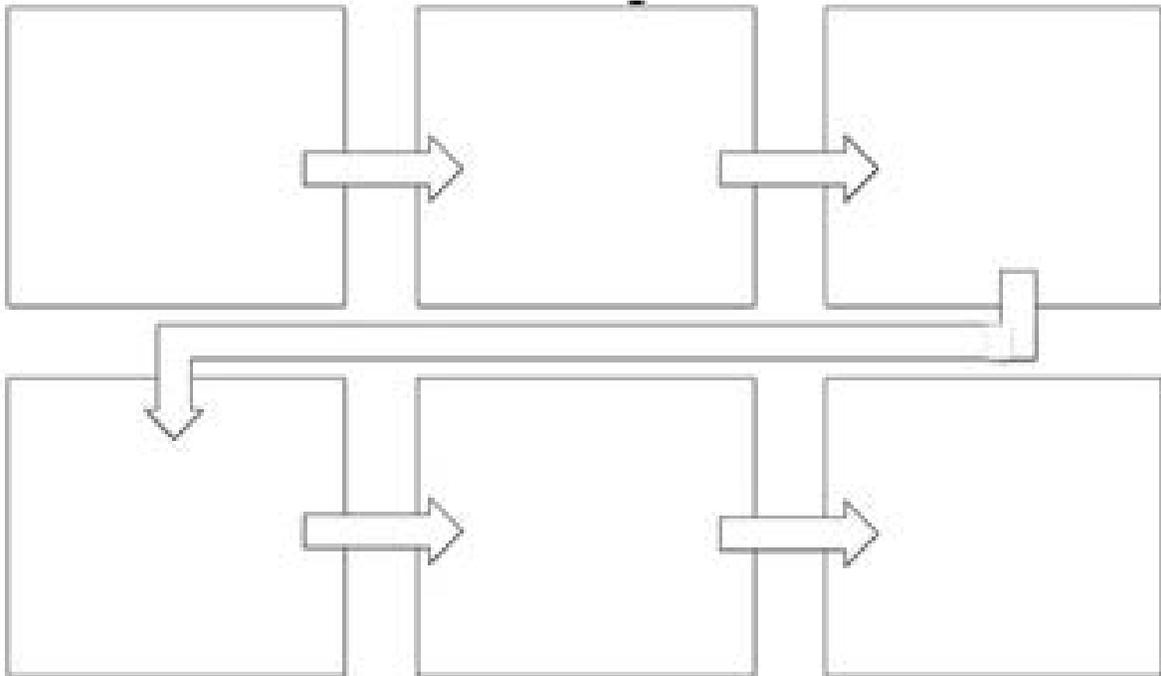


Mexico: Meso-American Indigenous People-Nahua and Otomi People

Post-visit Activity: Graphic Organizer

Name: _____ Date: _____

In the squares below record the sequence through which the Nahua and Otomi create amate bark paintings. This sequence may include illustrations, symbols, drawings or any combination.





Mexico: Meso-American Indigenous People- Nahua and Otomi

Post-visit Activity: Sequence Graphic Organizer **KEY**

Information included in the student graphic organizer should include some of the following:

Bark from various types of trees such as the mulberry and fig is commonly used to make paper. Traditionally, the bark is stripped from the trees and boiled for long periods until soft. The strips of boiled bark are then separated and laid into grid patterns. Artisans use stones or wooden blocks to pound the strips until they flatten together and form a sheet. These sheets are laid in the sun to dry. After drying, the sheets are cut into smaller sheets of paper for writing and other activities.

The Otomi people are located in the mountainous and somewhat geographically isolated Mexican state of Puebla. They continue to make their own amate paper and create beautiful works of art on the bark paper. These bark paintings illustrate the flora and fauna native to their region. Traditionally, the paintings include colorful flowers, birds, and other animals such as deer or rabbits. Artists developed new styles that eventually included illustrations of their villages and also religious scenes.

Recently, painters and craftsmen from the Nahua tribe near Mexico City revived the craft and are producing new works of art. This revival has been promoted by the Mexican government. Through this promotion, amate bark paintings have become popular in Mexico and around the world as a traditional Mexican indigenous handicraft. Bark paintings are sold as a form of ecotourism to help the economy of local tribes.

Source: <http://www.twinrockerhandmadepaper.com/showprod.php?dept=Pulp&grp=Twinrocker+Pulp&prod=Ready-to-use-pulp&PHPSESSID=5b80289697f70f61f426f2feb8c97660>