Student Worksheets

Welcome to the Northwest Coast Hall!

Everything that you see in the hall is a treasure of the Northwest Coast Indigenous people. Today, you will explore four treasures. Each one tells a story about the people who made it.

1. Chilkat Robe

2. Cedar Chest

3. Present-Day Design

4. Anywhere in the Hall
STOP 1  

Chilkat Robe  

This robe is a treasure of the Tlingit people. It was woven in the year 1842. The weaver used mountain-goat wool, cedar bark, and animal hide to create this robe.

1. Look at the robe. Talk about it with a partner:
   - What is the first thing that you see?
   - What colors and shapes do you see?

2. Find this design on the robe. Black is the most important color used by the artist. It shows the design. The black paint was made from charcoal.

   Color in the missing black parts here. (Some are already colored in for you!)

3. Read the text below the robe. Look at the drawing of the same design pattern.

4. Talk about it:
   - What does the design show? What story does it tell?
   - How are robes like this a part of Tlingit life today?
   - Why are robes like this important to the Tlingit people?

4. On the northern Northwest Coast, Indigenous artists work in a special design style called Formline. They all use the same seven basic shapes to create their designs. Look at the robe on display. Can you find these shapes? Check ☑ the shapes that you find. (Hint: The shapes can be in black, green, or neutral color. They can be thinner or thicker. They can even be sideways or upside down!)

   - circle
   - crescents
   - ovoid
   - inner ovoid
   - u-shape
   - split u-shape
   - s-shape
STOP 2 Cedar Chest

This painted chest (large box) is a treasure of the Haida people. It was carved from a single cedar tree around the year 1850.

1. Walk around the cedar chest. Look at all four sides.

   Talk about what you see with a partner:
   - What stands out to you?
   - What colors and shapes do you see?

2. Each side of the cedar chest has a giant “face” design. It is called a crest. Pick one crest design and draw it in this box:

3. Find the “Chest of Chief Gidansda” text panel. Read about the three crest designs.

   Which crest design did you draw?
   ◯ Grizzly Bear ◯ Mountain Goat ◯ Moon

4. Talk about the crest design that you chose:
   - What does it represent?
   - What story does it tell?
   - How is it important to the Haida people?

5. Write one fact that interests you about its story and its meaning to the Haida people:

4. On the northern Northwest Coast, Indigenous artists work in a special design style called Formline. They all use the same seven basic shapes to create their designs. Six of those shapes were used on this cedar chest. Walk around it and look at all four sides. Can you find these shapes? Check ☐ the shapes that you find. (Hint: The shapes can be in black, red, green, or brown. They can be thinner or thicker. They can even be sideways or upside down!)

   - circle
   - crescents
   - ovoid
   - inner ovoid
   - u-shape
   - s-shape
Indigenous artists today continue to draw from traditional materials and stories to create their designs. They also draw from the Formline style.

Pick and observe one of these items:
- basketball
- wrap
- skateboard
- shoes

**TALK ABOUT IT**
- Which Formline shapes do you see?
- Compare this item with the Chilkat robe and the cedar chest. What differences in materials, shapes, and colors do you see?
- What does the artist say about using traditional styles to make contemporary art?

**STOP 4**  Pick Your Own

Explore the hall. Find another treasure that shows the Formline shapes. Draw it in the box.

Write a caption about who made it and what it is: