

Patchwork: Seminole and Miccosukee Art and Activities



Did you know that the Florida Seminole and Miccosukee people wear their art?

Florida Native Americans have made and worn patchwork clothing since the early 1900s. Over the decades they have created many beautiful and unique patchwork designs. They also make palmetto-husk dolls, dressed in patchwork clothing. Patchwork has become a way for the Seminoles and Miccosukees to express themselves, and a way to identify with their heritage.

Learn how the Seminole and Miccosukee people make patchwork designs and dolls. Make your very own patchwork and doll—using colored paper and glue instead of fabric and a sewing machine. The step-by-step instructions are easy to follow.

“The story of how these tribes developed their crafts tells us much about how Florida became the state it is today. The activities for students allow them to feel the skills of the talented artisans while creating tangible objects of art as their reward. **This is a book for students of the history of Florida, regardless of age.**” — Senator Bob Graham

“This book is a great way to integrate hands-on learning activities into the classroom using everyday classroom materials. **All fourth-grade classrooms should have this book.**” — Francis Holleran, President, Florida Council for the Social Studies

“The timing for this book is great, **in line with all our efforts to educate the youth worldwide regarding Native American people.**” — Lee Tiger, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida



Dorothy Downs is an art historian who has curated exhibitions of Native American art at several south Florida art institutions. She has taught Native American art history at the University of Miami and is a founder and president of the Tribal Art Society at the Lowe Art Museum. She is the author of *Art of the Florida Seminole and Miccosukee Indians* and has written articles for *Native Peoples Magazine*, *American Indian Art Magazine*, *Piecework*, and *Florida Anthropologist*. She wrote and produced the PBS TV documentary “Patterns of Power,” about the Seminole and Miccosukee women who sew patchwork clothing.



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Cover photographs by June Cussen and Dorothy Downs

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