

Bentwood Box Paper Template: Step-by-Step Instructions

Purpose: Create a paper version of a bentwood box to explore Indigenous art, storytelling, and cultural significance.

Materials Needed

- ✓ Cardstock or sturdy paper
 - ✓ Scissors
 - ✓ Glue or double-sided tape
 - ✓ Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
 - ✓ Ruler (if drawing by hand)
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Option 1: Create in Microsoft Word or PowerPoint

Step 1: Draw the Box Layout

- 1 Open **Microsoft Word or PowerPoint**.
- 2 Insert a **rectangle shape** and adjust its size:
 - **3 inches wide x 3 inches tall** per panel (adjust as needed).
- 3 **Duplicate** the rectangle **4 times** to form a row of four connected squares (**front, side, back, side**).
- 4 Add a **small tab** (1/2 inch wide) on one end for gluing.

Step 2: Add the Bottom and Lid

- 5 Below the first square (Front), insert a **smaller square** (3" x 3") to be the **box bottom**.
- 6 Above the first square, insert another square for the **lid** (optional).

Step 3: Customize with Indigenous Symbols

- 7 Inside each panel, insert **clipart or drawings**:
 - **Front:** Eagle
 - **Side:** Salmon
 - **Back:** Bear
 - **Side:** Wolf
 - **Lid:** Medicine Wheel
- 8 Add a **dotted line** where students should fold.

Step 4: Print & Assemble

- 9 Print on cardstock.
 - 10 Cut along the outer lines and **fold along the dotted lines**.
 - 11 Glue or tape the **side tab** to connect the panels.
 - 12 Attach the **bottom panel**.
- ☒ **Done!** You now have a paper bentwood box for students to decorate and use in storytelling!
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Option 2: Create by Hand

- 1 On **cardstock**, draw a row of **four connected 3" x 3" squares**.
 - 2 Draw a **small tab** (½") at one end.
 - 3 Below the **first square**, draw a **3" x 3" square** (bottom).
 - 4 Above the **first square**, draw another **3" x 3" square** (lid, optional).
 - 5 **Add symbols** inside each panel for decoration.
 - 6 **Cut, fold, and glue** like the instructions above.
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Teaching Connection

- **Storytelling:** Students can draw a **family crest** or a **traditional legend** on the panels.
- **Math:** Explore **measurements, geometry, and 3D shapes**.
- **Cultural Learning:** Discuss how bentwood boxes were steamed and bent from a **single cedar plank**.