

# **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)
- 

## **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!
- 

## 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.
- 

## 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**.