

Packet 8. The Magical World of Bev Doolittle

1. Pintos
2. The Forest has Eyes
3. The Spirit Takes Flight
4. Let My Spirit Soar
5. Calling the Buffalo
6. Bugged Bear

LINE, COLOR and PATTERN are the main tools used in these paintings to create optical illusions or hidden pictures. The LINES of snow in the rocks blend with the lines of white on the horses in Pintos. The SHAPES of color on the horses are the same as the rocks behind them. By using the same LINES, COLOR, SHAPES and PATTERN on the horses as in the background, Bev Doolittle hides the Pintos in the picture and we have to look hard to find them.

Calling the Buffalo at first seems like a simple landscape. The HORIZON LINE is easy to see. The dark shades of COLOR in the sky help create a MOOD in this painting.

The Spirit Takes Flight is full of TEXTURE. After studying the picture, the viewer can finally see how the textured ground cover has been arranged to camouflage the face of a Native American warrior. In Bugged Bear the artist has so finely detailed the TEXTURE of the bear's coat that it seems as if we can pick out each individual strand of fur. Point out the fact that this is VISUAL TEXTURE, not actual texture. Bring in a small piece of animal fur and let the kids feel it to understand how the artist fools our eyes to make us believe that what we see is ACTUAL TEXTURE.

Be sure ALL 6 pictures are returned to the Packet Carrier after your Presentation is finished.

The Magical World of Bev Doolittle

About the Artist

Bev Doolittle was born and raised in Southern California. She describes her childhood as “ordinary”. Bev grew up in a large family with parents, step parents, two sisters, a brother, a step brother and two half brothers. One sister was three and a half years older than Bev. This sister always got to color all the Disney characters in their coloring book because she declared that she was the best coloring artist, over her three younger siblings. Since Bev’s older sister “hogged” the coloring book, Bev started drawing her *own* pictures to color and her favorite subjects were horses.

Bev Doolittle’s mother said, *“Bev literally could draw as soon as she picked up a pencil. Even before she went to school, she had started drawing horses and people.”* Bev won her first award at the age of twelve, in an art contest sponsored by the San Gabriel historical Society and Bev’s first one-artist show was held when she was 14. Her high school art teacher suggested that she apply for the Saturday Scholarship at the Los Angeles Art Center College of Design; she won the scholarship and began serious art study even before graduating from high school.

After graduating from high school, Bev enrolled full time in the Art Center College of Design, majoring in advertising illustration so that she could earn a living while doing her painting. Bev studied photography, painting, drawing and illustration. Because she was preparing for an advertising career, much of her time was spent drawing objects that might one day appear in an advertisement. Yet, whenever she had time to just let her pencil roam, it would draw horses, which are still her favorite subject.

- **What kinds of objects can most commonly be seen in an advertisement?** *Soap, toilet paper, paper towels, household cleaning supplies, make-up, fashions, jewelry, fashion accessories, groceries, toys, cars, furniture, shampoo, vacuum cleaners, etc.*

Bev met her husband, Jay Doolittle, while attending school at the Art Center. Jay was also a very talented artist, who graduated from the Art Center with honors, in 1967. Bev and Jay married in 1968 and, since they both loved to paint outdoors, their honeymoon was a painting trip to Zion National Park, in Utah.

Bev and Jay see themselves as two different kinds of artists. Jay often helps Bev by discussing the concept of a painting with her and helping her with research for it. The Doolittles originally sold their paintings at outdoor art shows much like Portland’s “Saturday Market”. As Bev’s paintings became increasingly ambitious and detailed they would take longer and longer to finish. This meant that Bev needed to ask higher prices than they could get at the outdoor art shows, which at that time were the Doolittle’s’ only sales outlet. Because they needed to make money, the couple came up with *“You and Me”* paintings, which didn’t take as much time. For these paintings, Jay would paint a watercolor background and Bev would add a small, very detailed animal, Indian or mountain man. They would both sign the paintings, which sold well, but it wasn’t enough money to pay all their bills. Jay took a job in an advertising agency and Bev worked as an independent illustrator. She did a series of illustrations for the Police Safety League.

Illustrating other people’s ideas wasn’t what Bev or Jay really wanted to do with their talents. They also didn’t want to keep living in a big city, so they decided to quit their jobs (which meant they wouldn’t have the security of a monthly paycheck) and start a new life as Traveling Artists.

In 1973, the Doolittles decided on a year-long experiment to see whether or not they could make their living solely as painters. They had little interest in material possessions or fancy

traveling, so the Doolittles bought a secondhand, 1957 Chevy pick-up truck, which they fitted out as a camper. It was just big enough for their bicycles, a cook stove, a tent, their photographic and painting equipment. Jay built a small platform on top of the camper so that they could paint in the open air, out of the way of bears and people. They often sold their paintings right on the spot as people watched them painting. The Doolittles drove all around the American West, looking for creative ideas to paint. During this time, Bev became more and more interested in the history and mystical aspects of the Native Americans. She began researching Native Americans and slowly these images found their way into her paintings.

When the year was over, the Doolittles decided they would try and make it on their own as Fine Artists. They had to find more ways of selling their paintings and began to participate in various Art Shows, fairs and festivals around the United States. In order to do this, the Doolittles had to live in a 22-foot trailer, in Jay's parent's backyard. Bev drew inspiration from the photos, memories and dozens of sketches she and her husband had collected during their year of traveling. It was at this time that Bev began to develop her own famous style of painting.

Bev Doolittle's unique style of painting has made her a very famous artist today. Bev creates large, complex, highly detailed watercolor paintings which take weeks, even months, of planning, research, drawing and painting. Her STYLE is characterized by meticulous REALISM, unsparing attention to detail and an extraordinary talent for drawing. Many of her works tell a story. Her storytelling captures the viewer's imagination and makes us look closer to find the details. Because of the complexity and time it takes to make one of these paintings, she needed to ask a much higher price, so the Doolittles began searching for an Art Gallery that would handle Bev's higher priced works.

Bev and Jay had a son, named Jason, who was born in 1981. Today, the Doolittles are busier than ever. They live way out in wild canyon country. Bev's paintings, depicting Native Americans, have won the support of many Native American Tribes. Bev Doolittle's paintings have a magical quality that can be appreciated whether or not the viewer likes Western or Native American art. Her paintings create an irresistible involvement with the viewer. That is why Bev Doolittle is so hugely successful today! She is an artist who reaches out to everybody and touches their imaginations!

Pintos

“Have you ever noticed that when you walk into a pasture, all the horses raise their heads at once to look at you? I became fascinated with the idea of painting such a scene while observing a small group of chestnut horses. As I worked out the design, I began to think how much fun it would be to have the horses observing you, the viewer, before you saw them. Then, I began to work out ways to camouflage the horses.”

“The varied abstract markings of pinto horses suggested patterns of snow against rock. The chestnut horses became pintos hidden against a background of sienna-colored rocks and snow patches. The wild pinto ponies all stand alert, already aware of your presence when you discover them.”

–Bev Doolittle

In 1979, Bev Doolittle completed a painting called *Pintos*, which changed her life forever. This painting first started out to be a group of chestnut (brown) horses in a green meadow. But Bev wanted something more dramatic in her painting so she changed the meadow into a rocky pass, the horses became dappled Pintos, and she added a sudden snowfall. In doing this, Bev Doolittle found herself in a brand new territory—“Camouflage Painting”. Sometimes, while she was working on this painting, Bev would get lost in the painting so she developed the technique of using tissue overlays to find her way around in the painting. (*Bev demonstrates this technique in her video.*) With her *Pintos* picture, Bev Doolittle had truly found herself as an artist!

Bev submitted *Pintos* to the American Watercolor Society for possible exhibition in New York. It was here that this painting caught the eye of the President of the Greenwich Workshop. *Pintos* was released as a limited edition print. This means that only a certain number of copies from the original watercolor painting could be printed and sold to the public. The originals were priced at \$65 and only a thousand prints were made. By 1989, a *Pintos* print sold for \$10,000 and the “Bev Doolittle phenomenon” took off!

Today, each set of limited edition prints completely sells out as soon as it is released. An original Bev Doolittle watercolor will easily sell for \$150,000 or more! Over 500,000 copies of her two art books, *The Art of Bev Doolittle* and *New Magic*, have been printed and, through partial proceeds from the sale of her prints, significant environmental causes have received donations in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Bev’s latest book is titled *The Earth is My Mother*.

Project Ideas

- Draw horses and paint or color them like dappled Pintos.
- Draw a horse’s head only (close up view) and paint with Pinto spots.
- Draw horses using charcoal.
- Draw horses in a meadow or a wild landscape.
- Sculpt horses from clay.
- Sculpt a horse FORM using pipe cleaners or thin wire.
- Display the example of sculptor Debra Butterfield’s horse sculpture. Deborah assembles her various horse sculptures using wood, scrap steel or other “found objects”. This type of sculpture is called an ASSEMBLAGE. Sculpt a horse using craft sticks, toothpicks, twigs, and scraps of wood glued together.
- Draw and cut out a large horse SHAPE, from white construction paper. Cut and glue the details, like hooves, mane and dappled spots, from colored construction paper.
- Begin with the project above, but cut details using unusual and unexpected COLOR or PATTERN. How about a purple spotted pinto with a flowing pink mane and tail?



Example of a Horse Sculpture by Deborah Butterfield

This ASSEMBLAGE sculpture was formed using smooth tree limbs and driftwood. The Portland Art Museum owns a Deborah Butterfield horse sculpture, similar to this one, created from willow branches with the bark removed. There are three more Deborah Butterfield Horse sculptures, near the Portland Airport, just off Airport way.

The Forest Has Eyes

(Detail)

(This means the picture is only *part* of the entire painting, or a close-up of a section of the original—a detail.)

The Forest has Eyes

They Lived on this land and loved it
A thousand years before Columbus discovered it.
We call them Native Americans.
They call themselves The People.
They were scattered like leaves.
Where they walked softly, cities roar.
But their spirits remain.
We can never be alone.
Someone who loved this land watches over it.

Can you see the faces in the forest watching you?

“Camouflage is something that happens in nature all the time. People see faces in clouds or animals in gnarled logs, so what I started doing wasn’t a new concept,” says Bev Doolittle. ***“I use camouflage to slow down the storytelling in a painting and to deceive the eye by making a person see one thing first, then something else and maybe something else again. But my messages about our wilderness and native people are never hidden.”***

Suggested Dialogue

This is one of Bev Doolittle’s famous camouflage paintings. **Can you find the faces hidden in the forest? How many can you find?** (Check the diagram on the back of the picture.) To find the faces, you need to look at this picture carefully and study it for a long time.

What is the man in this painting doing? He is crossing a river, riding a horse, pulling another horse behind him (possibly *with* or *for* more provisions). The man has a rifle in his right hand and he is looking behind him.

What do the details of this painting tell you about the man?

Most of Bev Doolittle’s subject matter is set outdoors. ***“I love nature,”*** she says, ***“I try to look beyond the obvious and create unique, meaningful paintings depicting our Western wilderness and its inhabitants.”***

Project Idea

- (Grade 3) Write a paragraph about what the man in this picture is thinking. Is he worried or scared? Did he just hear something behind him? Did he see something behind him? Could it be an animal? A person? His imagination? Is he just looking for his friend who has fallen behind? Why is this man in the forest? Is he hunting for food? Enemies? A missing friend? A bad guy?
- (Grades 4 & 5) Write an entire story about this character and his adventure in the forest. The hidden surprises in this picture could inspire a very creative and imaginative story!

Let My Spirit Soar

Is there anything *strange* about this picture? *Although the rock, which the woman is sitting on, is shown reflected in the water, the woman herself is NOT reflected in the water.*

What *is* reflected in the water, instead of the woman? *Birds flying*

Why do you think the artist chose this title for the painting? *Opinions will vary. Once you have time to let the class suggest some theories, read the following poem, while the class quietly views the painting, and see if their opinions change:*

***My thoughts fly up like birds in the sky.
I am free. I can fly.
I go everywhere. I see everything.
Towering mountain ranges
And a tiny flower growing in the desert.
I see cities and highways and a fallen tree.
I see a grandmother telling a story to a child.
I sit quietly
But my thoughts fly up like the birds in the sky.
Only I know where they go.***

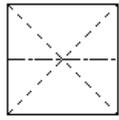
***When you sit quietly; where do your thoughts go?
What do you see?***

Bev Doolittle

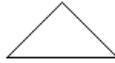
Project Idea

- Create pictures showing woods reflected in the water. Divide the paper horizontally, to form the edge of the shoreline. There should be grass, or possibly reeds or cattails on the water's edge. There might be a few large rocks close to the shore. Maybe the woods are higher than the shoreline. A few of the Fir trees might have their trunks visible, while other tree trunks would be completely covered by their boughs. The arrangement of the woods is very important because a mirrored reflection needs to be reflected in the water.
- Create a reflected shoreline picture with a house and a yard, kids playing and maybe even a dog.
- Create paper birds that hang from a string. Bring in books from the library and show and discuss a few types of birds found in our area. Discuss how each side of the bird is the same (SYMMETRICAL) A wing and even a bird's eye is found on each side of its body. Fold a sheet of white construction paper (or white cardstock) in half and let the kids draw a bird in flight, **on the fold**, so that when they cut their bird out, it will be the same on each side. This is a good chance to discuss SYMMETRICAL BALANCE. Remember, if you give them a bird already cut out, you will be taking away the chance for them to be creative themselves. You might draw a simple outline on the board, for them to copy on their paper. Give them more than one choice of ways to draw a tail, a head and/or the wings. If you feel you can't draw that well, that's great! Keep the drawing as simple as possible, so the kids will not be intimidated, as long as your bird shape ROUGHLY resembles a bird! Be sure to paint or color the bird.
- Pass out paper squares and the following instructions to let 4th and 5th grade classes fold a bird with flapping wings. Makes copies of this poem to hand out to the class.

----- mountain fold (the fold will make a "mountain")
 - - - - - valley fold (the fold will make a "valley")



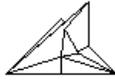
1. Fold as indicated.



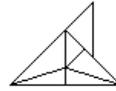
2. You should get this.



3. Take the top flap, and fold upwards.

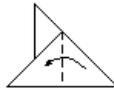


4. Note how the fold proceeds...

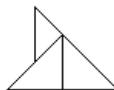


5. ...and becomes this.

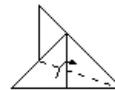
Turn the model over.



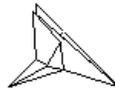
6. Now, flip the flap on the right to the left.



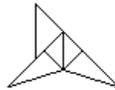
7. This will look the same.



8. Fold the top flap to the right, as in 3-5.



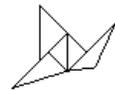
9. Again, this is how the fold will go...



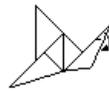
10. and this is how it looks now.



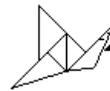
11. Set the location of the neck.



12. And, using this as a guide, make an outside reverse fold.



13. Now mark the head,

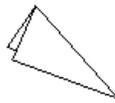


14. and perform an outside reverse fold on the head.

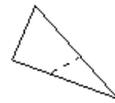


15. The model is complete.

How to make an outside reverse fold:



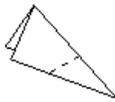
Given a folded tip,



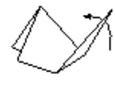
crease along a line with both a mountain and valley fold,



resulting in this.



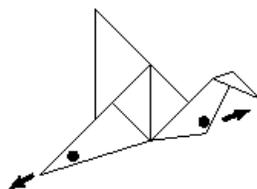
Now, reopen the fold just made.



Fold the tip backwards, making valley folds on both sides of the paper. You will have to open the folded tip a little.



The completed fold.



To make the bird flap its wings, hold at the points indicated and pull in the direction of the arrows. Don't pull too hard!



Birds



Cardinal



Brown Pelican in Flight



Eagle in Flight



Bluebird



Broad-Billed Hummingbird

The Spirit Takes Flight

Suggested Dialogue

What is this a picture of? *The first and most obvious picture shows blue butterflies, black and yellow butterflies, various leaves, pine needles, rocks and gravel. An arrowhead is in the right FOREGROUND. The arrowhead is a clue about the other picture hidden in this camouflage painting. The second picture is a hidden portrait of a Native American warrior. His face fills up the center of the picture. The warrior's face and most of his facial features are outlined in pine needles.*

Point out the outline of the warrior's shoulders, neck, face and headpiece for the class.

What do you think the artist meant by the title she chose for her painting? *There is no right or wrong answer, this question is merely to encourage discussion and get the class thinking.*

Bev Doolittle's camouflage art demands months of development, research of terrain and animal sketching. After developing the concept, she creates small "thumbnail" sketches, up to as many as fifty, where she reworks the image until she has achieved her idea.

Next, she works out all the questions of detail in a larger pencil drawing. A color study (colored practice picture) comes next, to help her choose the colors that will add the most to her picture. Finally, Bev decides the size for the painting and begins to paint. It takes long weeks of intensive work to complete an original Bev Doolittle watercolor painting.

Bev says, ***"I want people to think when they look at my paintings."***

Did Bev Doolittle make you *think* when you looked at her painting?

An original Bev Doolittle painting sells for thousands of dollars. **Now that you know how many steps it takes her to create one of her watercolors, do you think that is fair?** *Bev Doolittle's work is so famous because of the wonderful detail work she creates. This obviously takes a lot of time. Most people appreciate the amount of time it took to create such beautiful work, even though they can only afford to buy her artwork in a Calendar or a book.*

Project Ideas

- Collect a large sack full of long, dry, pine needles. Give each student a handful or two of the pine needles. Glue these needles to a construction paper background to create a picture of something, using the pine needles to create the LINE of the picture. Be sure to create an example so the class will understand what you want *them* to construct. This is not intended to be a hidden or camouflage project. The class will just use a unique and interesting MEDIUM (real pine needles) to create a picture. Be sure the class understands that the picture can be of anything this unusual medium inspires.
- Bring in a collection of natural "found objects" (leaves, pebbles, shells, rocks, thistles, twigs, pine cones, sand). Create an ASSEMBLAGE sculpture in a shallow cardboard box, a shoe box or a shoebox lid. Check Grocery stores to find boxes that have been cut down to an inch or two, for display purposes. They are usually happy to recycle this type of box for the use of a school art project.
- Create paper butterflies. This is a fairly simple project that every grade can enjoy. Bring in photographs or books showing real butterflies. Briefly discuss the life cycle of a butterfly (it's great to throw in a little science). A butterfly can become a great and simple lesson on SYMMETRICAL BALANCE. Just spend a couple of minutes pointing out how the PATTERN on a butterfly's wings is a mirror image of each wing. Have younger kids repeat the word; this will help them remember it. Ask older kids if they can define the word for you, before you begin the short discussion of the topic.

Butterflies



Easter Tailed Blue Butterfly



Gulf Fritillary Butterfly

Calling the Buffalo

What type of atmosphere is pictured here (MOOD)? *The background sky is dark and stormy, it looks like it is about to rumble with the sounds of thunder and lightening.*

“A medicine man of the Sioux has been chosen by his tribe to call the great herd. He goes away from his camp, choosing one of the infrequent water holes from which to make his prayers. Guided by ritual handed down from the medicine men of one generation to another, he chants and prays to the spirit of the buffalo. He uses the powerful magic of a buffalo skull to entice the herd into this tribe’s territory. Knowing his people’s survival depends upon his success; he focuses his spiritual power and casts his big medicine into his call. The only question remaining is—will the buffalo heed his call?”

Bev Doolittle

In front of the medicine man we can see some large rocks lining the edge of a water hole... **or is it a water hole???** The right FOREGROUND of the picture shows green grass, which gives us a clue that there really is water here. The grass around the other areas of the picture is a drier, yellow color. At first this scene appears to be just a rare water hole out on the dry prairie. But as we look longer at the reflections in the water, the rocks turn into Buffalo, drinking water at the edge of the watering hole. **Can you see them?** The sudden appearance of the camouflaged Buffalo makes the painting seem kind of mysterious and magical. **It makes you wonder whether, if there was suddenly a crash of lightening and thunder in that ominous sky, would the buffalo suddenly stampede?** It also makes us look at the medicine man and wonder...**How’d he do that?**

American Buffalo

In 1519, Spanish explorer Hernando Cortéz visited an Aztec Indian zoo in what is now Mexico City, Mexico. Cortéz was the first European to visit the zoo, and he was impressed with the variety of animals in the fancy wooden cages. One animal is said to have made an especially strong impression on him. A Spanish historian called that animal a “Mexican bull.”

Although he did not know it, Cortéz had just set eyes on one of the most common animals in the New World. In the early 1500’s, there were more than 60 million of these creatures roaming the Great Plains of North America. The American Indian tribes knew them well, and depended on them for food, clothing, and shelter. The European settlers would come to know them too, and would call them buffalo.

The Spanish explorer Coronado, whose soldiers were the first white men to see the buffalo wild on the Plains, admired the way in which the Indians used not just the meat but the whole animal. *Coronado wrote, “With the skins they build their tents, clothe themselves, make ropes and get wool.”* He also noted that the Indians used buffalo horns, hooves, and bladders to make tools and containers. The Indians even collected dried buffalo dung, or “chips”, to burn for fuel because firewood was so scarce on the Plains. Indians did not believe in killing animals for sport, only for survival.

Project Ideas

- Draw a buffalo with charcoal.
- Paint a watercolor prairie landscape. Paint the prairie grass with golds and yellows. Paint gray rocks, next to a watering hole. Paint a dark sky, about to rain or even having a lightening storm. Cut buffalo from construction paper and glue to the landscape. Cut a buffalo skull and glue it somewhere in the picture.
- Cut the buffalo for your painted landscape from fake fur and construction paper.
- Sculpt a buffalo from clay. Use line to create the texture of fur.

HIDE (without hair)
tipi covers, clothing
parfleches (saddle bags)
shields, containers, rattles

HIDE (with hair)
warm winter clothing
floor covering, moccasins,
blankets

HAIR
stuffing for balls
and baby cradles;
paint brushes,
ropes, shields,
saddles

FAT
mixed with powdered meat
to make pemmican

HORNS headdress, container,
club, cups, spoons

RIBS
arrow shafts
runners for sleds

MEAT
boiled
roasted
dried

BRAINS
for preparing the hides

TAIL
fly swatter

BLADDER
waterproof
bag

STOMACH
food
cooking pot
water container

SKULL
used for religious
ceremonies

BONES
for tools like
scrapers, knives,
awls for sewing
for hoes

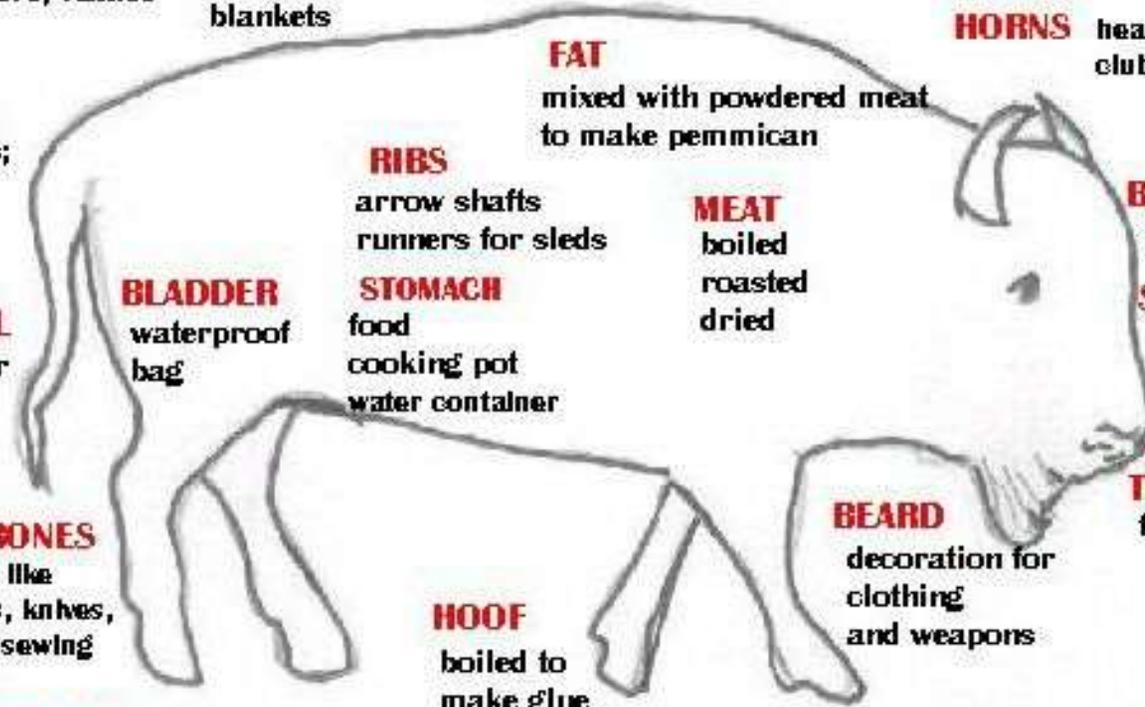
HOOF
boiled to
make glue

BEARD
decoration for
clothing
and weapons

TEETH
for necklaces

SINEWS (muscles)
laces, thread, bowstrings

DUNG (manure)
fuel for the campfire
smoke signals



The Useful American Buffalo

Native Americans used every part of the buffalo to sustain their way of life.

Buffalo



Bugged Bear

“Anyone who has ever spent any time in the great north woods knows what a plague the stinging flies and insects can be. Insects bother animals, not just humans, and the grizzly bear is no exception. The size and strength of the grizzly is no match for the persistent buzz and bite of the flying insects. Here a grizzly lies among a profusion of summer flowers stoically trying to ignore the flies, gnats, bees and mosquitoes until their season is over.”

Bev Doolittle

This is a springtime picture. A bear is lying on some rocks, in a patch of green with flowers, surrounded by white. The bear looks us straight in the eyes.

Can anyone find a beetle in this picture? *In the center of the yellow flower, on the left middle ground*
What other kinds of bugs or insects can you find in this picture? There are butterflies and bees fluttering all around the bear, but he just lazily stares off into space. The bear seems to be enjoying the warm spring sunshine. The FOREGROUND shows large flowers and larger insects. The artist has made it seem as if we are lying in the grass, just in front of the bear, and the larger flowers are right in front of us.

Look how Bev has created texture on the bear. It seems as if she has painted *each* individual hair of the bear’s fur. His fur is so realistic, it makes us want to reach out and touch it!

Project Ideas

- Create a Bumblebee gluing 3 black and 2 yellow pompoms together. Make cellophane wings and glue on wiggle eyes. Glue on Safety pins (you should do this for them with hot glue) so younger kids can wear them.
- Have kids create bugs with pompoms, pipe cleaners, cellophane and wiggle eyes. Challenge kids to create a new type of bug that hasn’t been discovered yet. Tie a 12” piece of fishing line around the bugs so the kids can carry them and they will look like they are jumping or flying.
- Bring in squares of brown fur. Kids should draw a bear shape on the back side of the fur, and then cut this out. Glue the shape to a background.
- Show the kids pictures of bears and have them draw and paint a bear.

Bears

