

Kids' Guide: Halumii Ktapihna

MUSEUM
OF THE
CITY
OF NEW YORK

Ages 7-12

In-gallery
& At home
Activities





Today, more than 180,000 people living in New York City identify as Native American, making New York City the largest urban Indigenous center in the country.

Welcome!

Welcome to *Halumii Ktapihna: Lenape Legacies and Futures*, an exhibition that explores the story of the Lunáapeew, the original, or first, people to call New York City home. For more than 12,000 years, the Lunáapeew have lived here. This exhibition celebrates Lunáapeew life and culture today and the efforts by Lunáapeew communities to **preserve** their **heritage** and **traditions** for future generations.

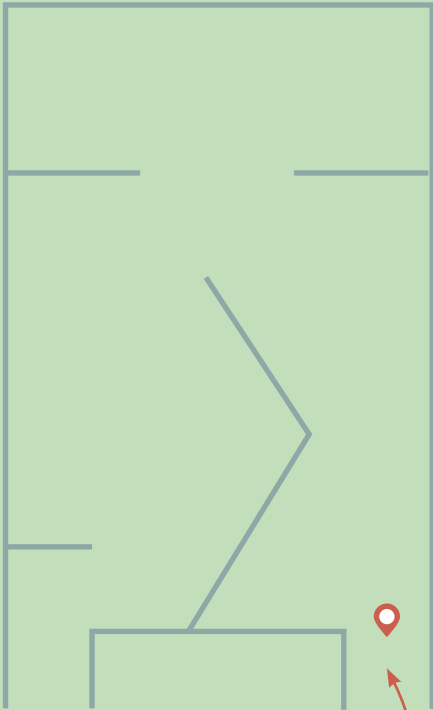
Throughout this guide, you will find interactive activities, discussion prompts, and a helpful glossary on page 4 to support your museum visit. Grab a pencil to explore the exhibition on your own or with a loved one. Go to pages 11–12 for activities to complete at home.

Enter with Care

The Lunáapeew story is one of **survival**. This exhibition tells the story of people who remember and share their **ancestors'** stories, including removal from their homelands; forced erasure of ancestral languages, cultures, and traditions; and the breaking apart of families.

Each of these actions was cruel, causing great harm. The Lunáapeew have come together to share their stories and remember the joy, struggle, and determination of their ancestors.

Halumii Ktapihna means “We are here forever.”



You are here

Use the locations next to this symbol 📍 to help find the objects.

Glossary

- Ancestor:** a person or place that another person comes from
- Colonized:** to be directly affected by a group of people from another country who take control over your land and resources
- Culture:** the way that people do the things they do
- Diaspora:** a group of people who are from one shared homeland but have been separated
- Generation:** all the people in a community who were born around the same time
- Heritage:** something that is passed on to us by people who have lived before us
- Homeland:** the place our ancestors called home
- Preserve:** to carry on or keep up
- Resistance:** an opposing or slowing force
- Revitalization:** the process of giving new life or vigor to something
- Sovereignty:** power over land or resources
- Steward:** someone who is responsible for taking care of another person, place, or thing
- Survival:** a continuation of life despite difficult conditions
- Tradition:** the handing down of information, beliefs, or customs from one generation to another



Kaylin Webster. Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation (Bridgeton, New Jersey).
Jessie Gould. 2021.

Native and **Indigenous** are two words with a similar meaning. They are used to describe the first people known to permanently live in a place, especially a place that was colonized.

Jingle Dresses

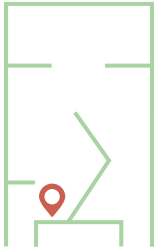
Jingle dresses are worn by jingle dancers, who are known as healers for their families, communities, and Nations. The jingle dance is a **traditional** healing dance that started in the Anishinaabe community. Women have led the effort to share the dance in their own communities, and to spread it to other Indigenous communities across the continent.

Lunáapeew communities today continue to carry forward the **traditions** of their **ancestors**. Photographer Kaylin Webster uses photography to capture the pride and responsibility Lunáapeew youth feel in **preserving** their **ancestral** traditions.

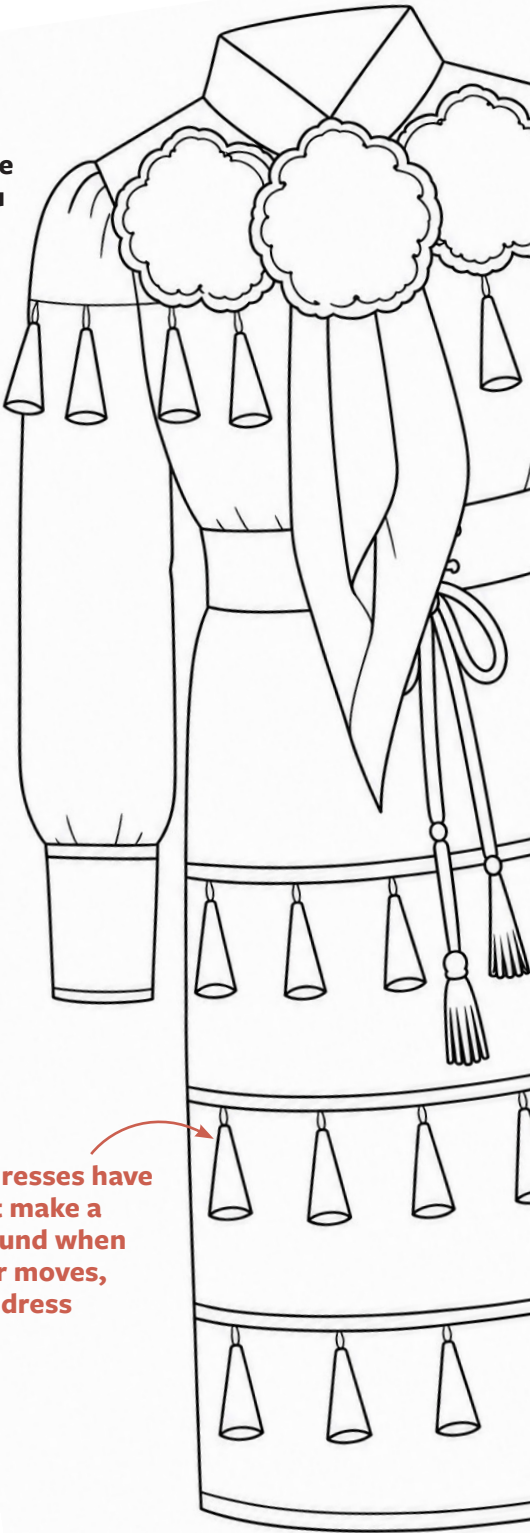


Kaylin Webster. Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation (Bridgeton, New Jersey). Alyssa Mosely in Jingle Dress. 2021.

Draw in the details you see.



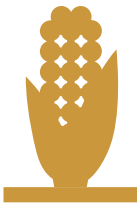
All jingle dresses have cones that make a jingling sound when the wearer moves, giving the dress its name.



Repeat After Me

Language connects us to our ancestors and their homelands. Kristin Jacobs (Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit) and Karelle Hall (Nanticoke Indian Tribe) are working actively to **revitalize** their ancestral languages for future **generations**.

Pick up each of the objects pictured below to learn from Kristin and Karelle how to say words in two Lunáapeew languages, Munsee and Nanticoke. **Write the spelling in the space** provided to keep practicing when you are home.



As of January 2026, there is only **one known person** left in the world who grew up speaking **Lunáapeew** as their primary language. Her name is Diane Snake. Kristin has worked directly with Diane to learn and spread the language to other people.

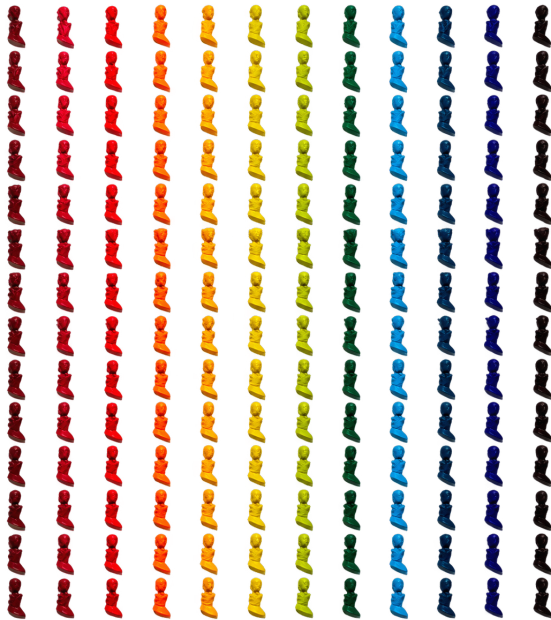


Spectrums

Holly Wilson made this artwork called *Spectrums Within Under Our Skin* using an everyday material.

Look closely on your own or with another person. What material do you think was used to make this artwork?

What do you think individual colors and individual people have in common?



Holly Wilson. Delaware Nation (Anadarko, Oklahoma). *Spectrums Within Under Our Skin*. 2019. Courtesy of the artist.

Read the quote below. How does the artist’s quote change what you think about the sculpture?

“We are all one below that surface, that surface of skin, no matter the color, the shape, or the origin*.”
- Holly Wilson

*Origin means the people or place that we come from.

Protect Mother Earth

Protecting Mother Earth is an issue that matters deeply to Lunáapeew communities. Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape brother and sister, Slam and Honour, carried this banner at a protest in Philadelphia to demand that big companies and everyday people stop polluting the Earth.

What do you **know** about climate change?

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What are you **curious** about climate change?

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What is one action – big or small – you can take to be a good **steward** of the land?

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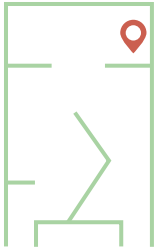
How does this artwork make you feel? Circle all that apply or fill in the blank with other word(s) that come to mind.

- happy
- sad
- energized
- scared
- troubled
- hopeful
- nothingness
- unsure

.....



Talk with your grown-up: What word(s) did you use to describe your response? What about the artwork made you feel that way?



Ashton Pemapnik Dunkley, Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation (Bridgeton, New Jersey). Protest banner, “Mother Earth and Her Indigenous Daughters are Under Attack.” 2019. Courtesy of Denise Bright Dove Ashton-Dunkley.

War Club

Chief Ronald Red Bone Van Dunk hand-carved this wooden war club in the **traditional** style of Lunáapeew people from his community, near what is today Mahwah, New Jersey.

Artisanship, or skilled craft work, is common among people living in Chief Van Dunk’s community.

Peyton, the great-niece of Chief Van Dunk was given the club by her uncle. She said it reminds her of being a kid and watching her great-uncle make things, even though he lived two generations before her.

Draw an object that belongs to you or a loved one that reminds you of one of your ancestors.



Chief Ronald Red Bone Van Dunk. Ramapough Munsee Lenape Nation (Mahwah, New Jersey). *War club*. ca. 1980s. Courtesy of Peyton Powell from the estate of Tony Powell.

At Home: Make Your Own Family Tree

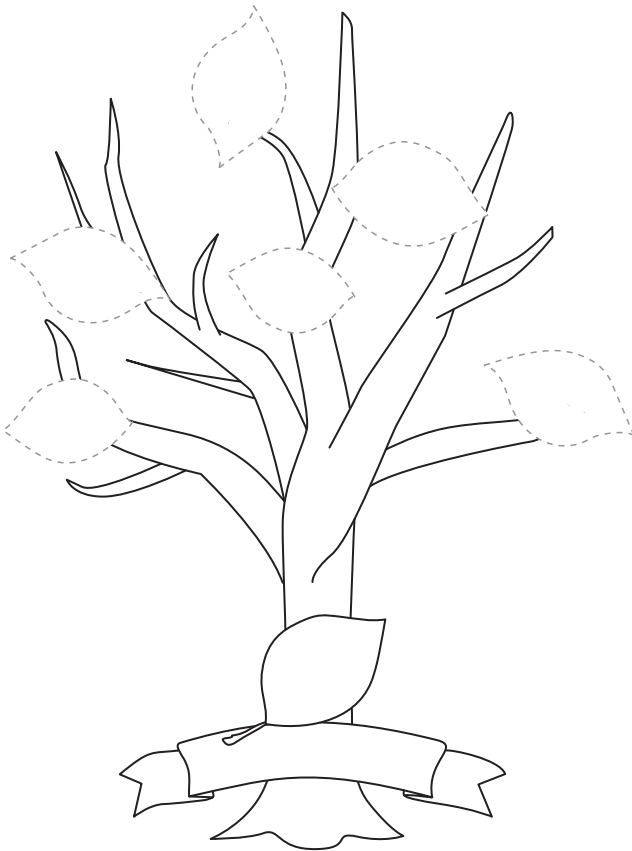
Each of us has a story that spans generations and homelands. When your family is together next, **create your own family tree** and have a conversation about your family story using the instructions below.

Materials You Will Need

- A big piece of paper
- Pencils and markers
- Photos of your family
- Glue or tape
- Scissors (ask a grown-up to help)

How To Make Your Tree

1. Draw your tree trunk.
2. Add a branch for each family group.
3. Make a leaf or circle for each person.
4. Add faces and photos.
5. Write their names.
6. Decorate.



At Home: Talk About It



Have a conversation with your grown-up about the prompts below inspired by objects featured in the exhibition.

- Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape photographer Kaylin Webster created a series of photographs to show how youth keep the **traditions** of their ancestors alive. Ask one of your parents, grandparents, or a trusted adult about a tradition that was passed on to them by one of their ancestors.
- Legend has it that an Anishinaabe man had a dream where he saw a dress like the one pictured on page 5, which had many metal cones. His sick granddaughter wore the dress, and its sounds healed her as she danced. Jingle dancers are known as healers today in their communities. **What is one legend, or story, that has been passed down in your family?**
- Take a moment to look again at the artwork on the cover of this kids' guide. Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit artist Keitha Keeshig Tobias called this painting *Comfort* to show the love between a Lunáapeew parent and their child, and how much our parents and their parents care about us and think about our futures. Ask a grown up: **What is one hope you have for my future?**

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Attend a program: For information on family programs, visit mcny.org/families.

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