

Mi'kmaq Inspired Quillwork Box

Teen
Take Away
Kits



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The Mi'kmaq are First Nations people who have lived in the Northeastern Woodlands of Canada and the United States for thousands of years. The Mi'kmaq are revered for their quillwork, the traditional art form of using dyed quills (often porcupine) for clothing, accessories, and other crafts.

A common Mi'kmaq quillwork design is the eight pointed star. The star represents the seven districts of the Mi'kmaq Nation and Great Britain, and the four colors of the star represent the four races of people. As a whole, the eight pointed star symbolizes unity. Make your own Mi'kmaq eight pointed star box to hold treasures!

Directions:

1. For each of the four colors (red, black, yellow, white) paint six toothpicks. You will need four toothpicks per color for the star and extras can be used for the side designs.
2. Once the toothpicks have dried, break/cut two of each color into approximately three equal pieces and save the three best pieces. Then take two of each color and break/cut each into approximately four equal pieces. Save the four smaller pieces that turned out the best.
3. For each color of the star, you will need three long toothpick pieces, and four smaller pieces.
4. To make the eight pointed star, begin by creating a cross with four right angles using two of the long toothpicks of each color.
5. Next, place the third long toothpick diagonally in the center of each right angle with its corresponding color.
6. Then, use the four smaller pieces to finish making the eight points of the star.
7. Use the remaining toothpicks to create your own designs on the sides or edges of the box. Just make sure they don't get in the way of the lid closing!

