

# Eskimo Crafts!

## SCRIMSHAW MEDALLIONS

The Eskimo people have always enjoyed the fine art of carving. They use the ivory from whales and walruses to make useful and decorative crafts. During the 18th century, the Eskimos taught carving and scrimshaw skills to many European sailors. These sailors made beautiful belt buckles and jewelry to take back home to their loved ones.

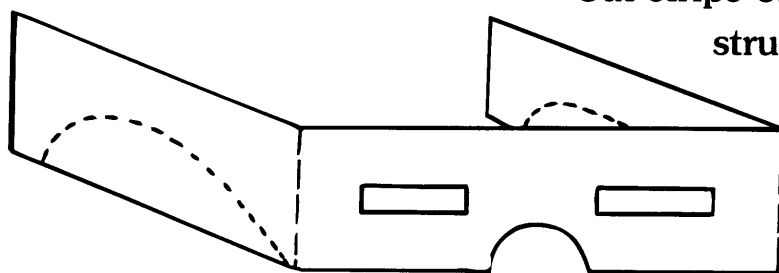
Making scrimshaw medallions in the classroom can be quite easy and a lot of fun!

Mix about 1 cup of plaster of Paris for every  $\frac{2}{3}$  cup of water. Quickly drop spoonfuls of the plaster onto sheets of wax paper. Use a nail or drinking straw to make a hole before it dries.

After it has dried overnight, let the children scratch designs in the plaster using a nail or paper clip. When the design is complete, rub colored chalk over the design and blow away the dust. A clear plastic spray can be applied, if you like. Thread a leather or yarn string through the hole and wear with pride!

## ESKIMO SNOW GLASSES

The Inuit people, or Eskimos, made snow glasses that protected their eyes from the reflected glare of the snow. Your students can make snow glasses, too, with just a few simple materials.



Cut strips of poster board or laminated construction paper measuring about 3" x 16". Cut out as the pattern indicates. Children can color or paint their own creative designs on the glasses.

Cut out eye slots with an art knife.

