# **Slovenian Woodcrafts - A Tradition in Carving**

TEACHER: Today we will learn about woodcrafts in Slovenia. Slovenia is a country in Europe. The people of Slovenia have made woodcrafts here for hundreds of years. They call them "suha roba." Do you know what the small object in this photo is?

### STUDENTS: A vase

It is a very small vase. What is it made of?

### Wood

This little vase is made from the wood of a local tree. It was handmade in the village of Ribnica by a traditional woodworker. How do you think the craftsman made the vase out of wood?

He carved it with tools; he sanded it from a branch; etc.

The man who made this vase has been making woodcrafts for many years. He uses special woodworking tools to smooth and change the shape of the wood. Some of the tools he uses are: a lathe, a chisel, and sandpaper.

The lathe is a special woodworking tool that turns and spins the wood around quickly, so it can evenly be carved and shaped from all sides. Lathes have been used for hundreds of years. In the past, they were powered by pressing your foot up and down on a pedal. Today, most lathes are powered using a motor, so they are easier to use.

Look closely at the design on the vase. Do you see the two dark lines? How do you think the lines were made?

#### They were carved, painted, drawn, etc.

It looks like the lines were drawn or painted on the vase. But actually, the lines were burned using another piece of wood. When two pieces of wood are rubbed together quickly, they create friction and heat up. If the two pieces are moving fast enough (like a vase spinning on a lathe), then they can actually start to burn. Put your hands on your cheeks. Notice how they feel against your skin. Now take your hands and rub them together really fast until I say stop.

(Have the kids rub their hands together for about 30 seconds to one minute.)

Okay...Stop! Now put your hands on your cheeks again. Do they feel warmer or colder?

Warmer

They feel warmer because your two hands are like the two pieces of wood. If you rub them together fast enough they create heat through something called "friction." If you kept rubbing your hands together, do you think they would start to burn like the wood? Put your thumb up if you think they would, and put your thumb down if you think they wouldn't.

(Allow the kids to raise or lower their thumbs.)

Your hands would get very warm, and if you kept rubbing them together, your skin would turn very raw and sore. It is similar to when you have a sunburn. But, your hands would not start smoking like the wood. Why do two pieces of wood smoke when you rub them together?

# They are dry; wood can catch on fire.

The wood in the picture is very dry. When you quickly rub two pieces of dry wood together, they can start to burn. You may have seen in a movie or read in a book about someone starting a fire by rubbing two sticks together. Before people had matches or stoves, this was one way to start a fire for cooking or staying warm. Do you think it is safe for kids to try and make a fire like that?

## No

We know that fires can be dangerous, and kids can get hurt playing with them. Only grown-ups should make fires. I think the man who made this vase must have practiced using a lathe and burning sticks for many years.

If you held this vase in your hands, do you think it would feel rough or smooth? Why?

Smooth, because I don't see bumps; Rough, because wood is rough when you touch it

The vase in the photo is very smooth. The man who carved it used a special tool to smooth any of the rough spots that were on the wood when it came from the tree. Do you know what special tool he used to smooth the wood?

# Sandpaper

That's right! He used sandpaper to smooth the vase. People all over the world enjoy making things with wood, because it is easy to change and shape. With the right tools you can carve almost anything out of wood! If you had your own set of woodworking tools, like the man in Ribnica, what would you carve?

(Give kids a chance to individually share their ideas, or have them share with the person next to them.)

# **Kindergarten Standards:**

## NYS Common Core Kindergarten Social Studies Standards

- K.2.b Cultures include traditions, beliefs, and shared values and ideas generally accepted by a particular group of people.
- K.9.a Children, families, and communities of today can be compared with those in the past.

## Kindergarten ELA Power NYSCCLS (ICSD Power Standards in Bold)

Reading Standards for Informational Text: Kindergarten

- Integration and Knowledge of Ideas
  - 7. With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the text in which they appear (e.g., what person, place, thing, or idea in the text an illustration depicts).

#### Speaking and Listening Standards: Kindergarten

- Comprehension and Collaboration
  - 1. Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about *kindergarten topics and texts* with peers and adults in small and larger groups.
    - a. Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g., listening to others and taking turns speaking about the topics and texts under discussion).
    - b. Continue a conversation through multiple exchanges.
    - c. Seek to understand and communicate with individuals from different cultural backgrounds.

**2.** Confirm understanding of a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media by asking and answering questions about key details and requesting clarification if something is not understood.

3. Ask and answer questions in order to seek help, get information, or clarify something that is not understood.

- Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas
  - 6. Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly.

Language Standards: Kindergarten

• Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

6. Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts.

#### Next Generation Science Standards for Kindergarten

*K-2-ETS1* Engineering Design

- ET S1.A: Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems
  - 1. Asking questions, making observations, and gathering information are helpful in thinking about problems. (K-2-ETS1-1)