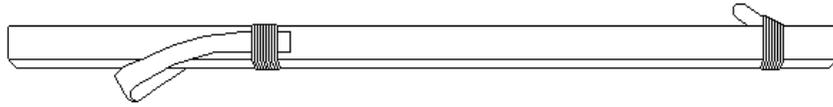


"Make and Take" Atlatls



This is a great way to introduce people to atlatls and atlatl-making. There is little preparation on your part and very little effort on theirs (I've had 5 year-olds make these), but there is enough work involved that they feel they've actually *made* an atlatl instead of just assembling pieces. It's not the best atlatl in the world, but it's fully usable, costs about 15 cents each in parts (so you can afford to just give them away), is pretty much harmless without the darts, and gives your visitors a great personalized souvenir.

Materials needed per atlatl:

- 3/4" x 3/4" x 18" pine (cut these from a 1" x 4" board)
- 3/8" x 1 1/2" dowel peg (cut these from a 3/8" x 36" dowel)
- 1/2" x 9" leather strap (soft leather works best)
- (2) 24" pieces of artificial sinew

General Supplies:

- Wood glue or white glue
- sanding blocks with medium grit sandpaper

Your preparation:

- Drill a 3/8" hole about 1 1/4" from one end at about a 35 degree angle. Go as deep as you can without going through. 
- "Rough" round off one end of the peg. A utility knife will work. 
- Tie a slip knot in each piece of artificial sinew, leaving about a 3" loop. It may help to tie a simple knot on the end first so it doesn't pull through when tightened.

Atlatl Construction (Have them do all this)

- Give them a piece of pine and a sanding block. Have them sand down all the edges and surfaces, especially the handle end. This is to get rid of any splinters.
- Put a large drop of glue in the hole and insert the flat end of the peg. Rotate it to spread the glue around, then push it all the way in.
- Put one of the sinew loops around the base of the peg and pull it tight. Wrap it around, going up the peg as far as possible to hold it in place. When you get to the end, push it down with a fingernail. The wax should stick to itself. Then put a small amount of glue all over the sinew and spread it out. This locks it down.
- About 7" from the handle end, put a large drop of glue on both sides of the atlatl. Put the ends of the leather in the glue, making sure the loop is in back (away from the peg).
- Put the other sinew loop around the ends of the leather, leaving about 1/4" exposed. Pull it tight, then wrap it back down towards the handle end. Finish it off like before.

The atlatl is now finished and ready to use. If you want, let them use markers to draw designs, symbols, animals, or whatever on their atlatl. This personalizes it for them and give the glue a chance to set. When they're finished, let them go try them out!