

*Family Members and Native American Technology Exhibit  
A Needs Assessment Survey Report*



**by**  
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# **OMSI's Survey of Family Members**

## **December 2004**

### **Overview**

This survey was part of a larger needs assessment conducted to guide the development of a project proposal.

### **Objectives**

1. Find out how much interest family members have in an exhibit on Native American Technology.
2. Find out what family members associate with Native American Technology.
3. Find out what family members would like to see or do within such an exhibit.

### **Methods**

#### **Participants**

During December 2004, participants were recruited in four ways: 1) at a powwow held by the United Indian Students of Higher Education at Portland State University on December 11, 2004, 2) at OMSI (general visitors), 3) at the Tamástslikt Cultural Institute, and 4) at The Museum at Warm Springs. Respondents were classified as children if their ages were between 10 and 18. Respondents were classified as adults if they were 19 or older. Participants were offered free general admission tickets to OMSI.

Racial-ethnic information was self-reported by the respondents. The 59 Native American respondents reported affiliations with 49 different tribes. No more than 7 respondents were affiliated with any one tribe.

	Native American	Non-native	Total
Child	17	18	35
Adult	42	45	87
Total	59	63	122

#### **Instrument**

A copy of the questionnaire is in Appendix A. A trained interviewer asked the questions and wrote down the answers as the interviews progressed. Two questions required the respondent to view sets of cards and choose two answers from each set. The sets of cards were used to ensure that the options were presented in random order each time.

## Results

### Question #1. How much interest do you have in exploring a hands-on exhibit about technology?

Percentage interested in exploring a hands-on exhibit about technology.

		Native American			Non-native		
	Overall	All	Adult	Child	All	Adult	Child
None!	2	2	0	6	3	4	0
Not Much	3	5	5	6	2	0	6
Some	36	39	33	53	33	27	50
A lot!	55	49	55	35	60	67	44
A lot Plus!	1	0	0	0	2	2	0
Depends/Blank/Maybe	2	5	7	0	0	0	0

\*Percentages may not add to 100 as a result of rounding.

### Question #2. How much interest do you have in exploring a hands-on exhibit specifically about Native American technology?

Percentage interested in exploring a hands-on exhibit about Native American technology.

		Native American			Non-native		
	Overall	All	Adult	Child	All	Adult	Child
None!	2	0	0	0	5	4	6
Not Much	4	0	0	0	8	9	6
Some	18	10	5	24	25	18	44
A lot!	53	63	64	59	44	53	22
A lot Plus!	21	27	31	18	16	13	22
Don't know	1	0	0	0	2	2	0

\*Percentages may not add to 100 as a result of rounding.

### Special analysis on Questions #1 and #2

Percentage that had the same or more interest in a hands-on exhibit about Native American technology than a hands-on exhibit about technology.\*

		Native American			Non-native		
	Overall	All	Adult	Child	All	Adult	Child
	83	98	97	100	69	70	67

\*These percentages are out of 118 (no blanks counted).

**Question #3. What comes to mind (do you think of) when you hear the phrase, Native American technology?**

The percentage of people that said something related to each phrase or key word in response to the question, *What comes to mind when you hear the phrase, Native American technology?*

		Native American			Non-native		
	Overall	All	Adult	Child	All	Adult	Child
Find and prepare food	76	51	60	29	100	122	44
Build something	41	27	31	18	54	56	50
Ceremony/ritual/regalia/ornamentation	17	24	12	53	11	13	6
Don't know or nothing	12	19	21	12	6	4	11
Weapons/war	11	3	2	6	19	18	22
Understand the natural world	11	7	10	0	14	20	0
Hides/textiles/clothing	8	7	2	18	10	9	11
General "art and craft"	6	8	12	0	3	4	0
High tech	6	10	12	6	2	2	0
Find medicinal plants	5	10	10	12	0	0	0
Specific tribe or environment	5	2	2	0	8	11	0
Travel somewhere/somehow	3	0	0	0	6	9	0
Communicate with others	3	3	5	0	3	4	0
Positive contributions and passing that on	3	2	2	0	5	4	6
Casinos	2	0	0	0	5	7	0
Play	1	2	0	6	0	0	0

\*Percentages may not add to 100 because respondents gave more than one response.

**Question #4a. What kinds of tools or inventions might you like to learn to use in an exhibit like this?**

The percentage of people that said something related to each phrase or key word in response to the question, *What kinds of tools or inventions might you like to learn to use in an exhibit like this?*

		Native Americans			Non-native		
	Overall	All	Adult	Child	All	Adult	Child
Find and prepare food	94	85	83	88	103	127	44
Build something	34	22	26	12	44	42	50
Hides/textiles/clothing	25	27	24	35	24	27	17
Ceremony/ritual/regalia/ornamentation	23	34	36	29	13	18	0
Understand the natural world	11	10	14	0	13	18	0
High tech	6	12	14	6	0	0	0
Don't know or nothing	4	0	0	0	8	4	17
Identify medicinal plants	3	5	5	6	2	2	0
Play	2	0	0	0	5	4	6
Communicate	2	5	7	0	0	0	0
Weapons/war	2	2	0	6	3	4	0
General "art and craft"	2	5	7	0	0	0	0
Travel somewhere/somehow	2	2	2	0	2	2	0
Specific tribe or environment	2	3	5	0	0	0	0
Positive contributions and passing that on	1	0	0	0	2	2	0
Casinos	1	0	0	0	2	2	0

\*Percentages may not add to 100 because respondents gave more than one response.

**Question #4b. What kind of goals would you like to help the people in our story accomplish? Please pick two from these options or feel free to say something not mentioned here.**

The percentage of people choosing each option in response to the question, *what kind of goals might you like to help the people in our story accomplish?*

		Native Americans			Non-native		
	Overall	All	Adult	Child	All	Adult	Child
Build something	46	36	24	65	56	56	56
Identify medicinal plants	43	46	52	29	40	42	33
Understand the natural world	34	39	48	18	30	38	11
Find and prepare food	27	31	31	29	24	24	22
Play	20	20	17	29	21	20	22
Communicate	20	17	19	12	22	20	28
Travel somewhere/somehow	16	15	12	24	16	11	28

**Question #4c. People invent tools and technologies that help them survive and enjoy the environment where they live. What types of environments (habitats) might you find the technology used most interesting? Please pick two from these options or feel free to say something not mentioned here.**

The percentage of people choosing each option in response to the question, *What types of environments might you find the technology most interesting?*

		Native Americans			Non-native		
	Overall	All	Adult	Child	All	Adult	Child
Mountains	37	37	38	35	37	29	56
River	36	46	55	24	27	29	22
Forest	28	22	19	29	33	29	44
Coast	27	22	24	18	32	38	17
Desert	20	20	17	29	21	22	17
City, town, village	19	22	19	29	16	20	6
Plains	19	25	24	29	13	16	6
Arctic	14	3	2	6	24	20	33

**Question #4d. People do different activities at different times of year. In what seasons might you find the technology used most interesting?**

The percentage of people choosing each option in response to the question, *In what seasons might you find the technology used most interesting?*

		Native Americans			Non-native		
	Overall	All	Adult	Child	All	Adult	Child
Winter	43	39	33	53	48	44	56
Summer	28	25	19	41	30	29	33
Fall	28	20	26	6	35	33	39
Spring	22	29	36	12	16	18	11

**Question #5. Are you more interested in learning about technology that Native Americans created (alternate asking past first and present first) 500 years ago or technology that Native Americans are creating today?**

The percentage of people choosing each option in response to the question, *Are you more interested in learning about technology?*

	Overall	All	Adult	Child	All	Adult	Child
500 years ago (past)	72	66	60	82	78	69	100
Today	22	24	31	6	21	29	0
Both*	6	10	10	12	2	2	0

\* "Both" was not provided as an option.

## Appendix A

### Family questionnaire

This questionnaire is for family members in groups with 1 to 6 members and at least one adult.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Interviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry is considering a new hands-on exhibit about technology. We'd like to know what you think about this idea. Could I talk to you about it for a moment?

1. How much interest do you have in exploring a hands-on exhibit about technology? (Note to interviewer: if they say what kind of technology, tell them the kinds of basic tools and technologies that people use every day to help them survive and to enjoy life).

None!                      Not much                      Some                      A lot!

2. How much interest do you have in exploring a hands-on exhibit specifically about Native American technology?

None!                      Not much                      Some                      A lot!

Why is that?

3. What comes to mind (do you think of) when you hear the phrase, Native American Technology?

4. If we create a hands-on exhibit on Native American technology, it will probably include stories about people inventing and adapting tools and ways to do things. Visitors will have the opportunity to try the inventions and learn more about them.

a. What kinds of tools or inventions might you like to learn to use in an exhibit like this?

- b. What kind of goals would you like to help the people in our story accomplish? Please pick two from the list (and then have them explain why).

Build something                      Find and prepare food                      Play                      Travel somewhere/somewhat

Find medicinal plants                      Understand the natural world                      Communicate with others                      Other? \_\_\_\_\_

- c. People invent tools and technologies that help them survive and enjoy the environment where they live. What types of environments (habitats) might you find the technology most interesting? Please pick two from the list (and then have them explain why).

Arctic      City, town, village      Coast      Desert      Forest      Mountains      Plains      River      Other? \_\_\_\_\_

- d. People do different activities at different times of year. In what seasons might you find the technology used most interesting?

Spring                      Summer                      Fall                      Winter

Why is that?

5. Are you more interested in learning about technology that Native Americans created (alternate the following orders)

- o 500 years ago or technology that Native Americans are creating today?
- o That Native Americans are creating today or that they created 500 years ago?

6. Will you please tell me the age ranges of the participating family members?  
(indicate gender for each; circle the primary spokesperson)

Age: 2-5 \_\_\_\_\_ 6-8 \_\_\_\_\_ 10-12 \_\_\_\_\_ 13-14 \_\_\_\_\_ 15-18 \_\_\_\_\_ 19-25 \_\_\_\_\_ 26-35 \_\_\_\_\_ 36-49 \_\_\_\_\_ 50-65 \_\_\_\_\_ 66+ \_\_\_\_\_

7. Will you please point to the ethnic background(s) that best describes you?

Hispanic	Not Hispanic	Not sure
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8. Will you please point to the racial background(s) that best describes you?

American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian	Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	Black	White	More than one race	Not sure
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9. If you have tribal affiliation(s), would you like me to know the names of the tribe(s)?