



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES

## Get Smart with Art Lesson

### Tools and Transportation

Lesson Created by the Virgin Valley Artists Association of Mesquite, NV

For Parents: In this lesson, students will learn about hand-made tools which can be seen at the Virgin Valley Heritage Museum in Mesquite, NV. Students will create a piece of art with the theme of tools and transportation.

Supplies Needed: Students may choose from the following supplies to create their art- paper and pencil, markers, acrylic or watercolor paint & paper, pastels, brushes and canvas. If your child resides in Mesquite, NV or the Virgin Valley area and needs supplies for this lesson, send email to [lindaharrisvva@gmail.com](mailto:lindaharrisvva@gmail.com).

### For Students:

Today if we need a certain tool, we go to the store to buy a tool which was made in a factory. But early settlers in the Virgin Valley and many other parts of our country made their tools and saddles by hand. They were created not only to be useful but were also often embellished with artistic designs. Saddles and other gear for horses often included intricately floral stamping and engraved silver decorations. Two well-known saddle makers in Nevada were Bill Malloy and Eddie Brooks, who both received a Governor's Arts Award.

Hand-made tools which were used by early settlers in the Virgin Valley can be seen at the Virgin Valley Heritage Museum. Visitors can also view the Hand Brick Machine. The machine was purchased in the early 1940's and hauled in a truck to Mesquite. The machine would make 10 bricks at a time, 2 "x 4" x 8" in size. The mixture consisted of 1 part of cement to 10 parts of screened gravel with brick powder, paint, and water. The brick added an extra thickness to the walls of a house and helped to keep it cool. A little over 10,000 bricks were needed for the home of Ralston Reber, which is one of the few remaining adobe homes in the area.

Your turn: Create a piece of art with the theme of tools and transportation used by early settlers. Or perhaps you want to create a picture of a tool or form of transportation that hasn't been invented yet. Have fun and be creative!

Students in the Mesquite Get Smart with Art Class created the following pieces of art related to the theme of tools and transportation.



This lesson was designed and written by Linda Harris, VVAA member.