

# American Indian and Multicultural Connection



Native American pictograph

Native stories were preserved through spoken language, pictographs and other pneumatic devices. Eastern Woodland Tribes usually had a member (or members) of the tribe whose specific role it was to keep the stories and traditions. The telling of stories was often dictated by specific protocol. Pictographs were used to record events by providing the visual trigger to recall the story. Wampum are beads made from the whelk and quahog clam shells.



Trade beads and silver

The beads made from these shells were used in constructing belts with pictographic imagery, as well as strings for diplomatic purposes, and as jewelry for bodily ornamentation. In the case of the wampum belts, the keeper of the belt was the keeper of the story. Types of stories included cautionary tales, cosmological tales, historical events, as well as others.