

2026-2027

DAYTON LIVE

DISCOVERY

RESOURCE GUIDE



Experience Lakota Culture
with

*Starr
Chief Eagle*

Wed., Oct. 14, &
Thurs., Oct. 15, 2026

9:30 & 11:30 a.m.

PNC Arts Annex

Welcome to the 2026-2027 Discovery Series at Dayton Live! We are very excited to be your education partner in providing professional arts experiences to you and your students!

STARR CHIEF EAGLE is a unique experience in which students get to observe music, dance, and storytelling from another culture. The performance will provide an interactive and educational dive into Lakota Culture that will explore the language, art, and knowledge of the Lakota people. Starr is a very skilled hoop dancer and passionate cultural educator. She will perform the rare hoop dancing tradition where she uses 22 hoops to create several designs, shapes, and creatures in active storytelling. Students viewing the show and using this resource guide will get an in-depth look into the Lakota culture while enjoying this vibrant performance.

The information and activities in this guide have been carefully crafted to help you and your students explore the many ways a live theatre experience can create endless learning opportunities. Don't forget to take advantage of the local resources listed to extend the play-going experience and make even more curricular connections for you and your students.

Thank you again, and welcome!

Curriculum Connection

Grades
3-8

You will find these icons listed in the resource guide next to the activities that indicate curricular connections. Teachers and parents are encouraged to adapt the activities included in an appropriate way for your students' age and abilities. **STARR CHIEF EAGLE** fulfills the following Ohio Learning Standards and Benchmarks for 3rd-8th grades:



Learning Standards Related to STARR CHIEF EAGLE

FINE ARTS | Dance: 3.1RE; 3.2RE; 3.3RE; 4.1RE; 4.2RE; 4.3RE; 5.2RE; 6.2RE; 3.2CO; 4.2CO; 5.2CO

FINE ARTS | Drama: 3.2CO; 3.3CO; 4.1CO; 4.2CO; 4.3CO; 5.2CO; 6.2CO

FINE ARTS | Music: 3.4RE; 3.7RE; 5.1RE; 5.7RE; 6.7RE; 7.8RE; 3.2CO; 4.2CO; 4.3CO; 5.2CO; 5.3CO; 6.2CO; 6.7CO; 8.4CO

SEL: C3.2.b; C3.2.c; C3.2.d

SOCIAL STUDIES: 4.HS.3; 5.GS.8; 8.HS.2, 8.GS.17; High School AH.10

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Audience Etiquette

We are so excited that you and your class are coming to a performance at the PNC Arts Annex! Get prepared for your visit by learning about audience etiquette.

Etiquette is a word we use to describe the way we should behave in a specific situation.

SHOW AND TELL: How might you describe etiquette or behavior at...

- ❶ A sports game?
- ❷ A rock concert?
- ❸ A library reading event?

Some of you might be coming to a live performance in a theatre for the first time, and it's important to understand how you can be a great audience member.

BRAVO is a word that an audience sometimes uses after a performance to show gratitude or congratulations to performers. Today, we will use this word to help us remember how to be a great audience member.

Be on time

Respect the space & staff

Ask for help

Voices & devices off

O standing vation

About the Show

S**TARR CHIEF EAGLE**, a hoop dancer extraordinaire, shares the teachings and culture of the Lakota people through language, dance, and song for all the future generations, all over the world. She engages her audiences with interactional games that include teaching hoop tricks, quizzing on Lakota language, and other educational exercises that bring the fun into learning. She ends her show by sharing her 21 years of experience hoop dancing, which she demonstrates by dancing with 22 hoops.

Starr Chief Eagle is an enrolled member of the Sicangu (Rosebud) Lakota Sioux Tribe. She was born with the Lakota name Wichahpi Tokahe (First Star) and was later given the Lakota name Wichahpi Ohitika Winyan (Brave Star Woman) as she entered into adulthood. She grew up in the Black Hills of South Dakota including Rapid City and the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and started hoop dancing before she could walk. Since then, she has been practicing every year to perfect her techniques and skills. Starr was raised up in hoop dancing by her father Dallas Chief Eagle and continues to carry on his teachings with a combination of her own.

She has an Associate of Arts in Lakota Studies from Oglala Lakota College as well as a Bachelor of Science in American Indian Studies with a minor in Philosophy from Black Hills State University.

Learn more about Starr at: artscouncil.sd.gov/ta/starr.aspx and <https://blog.nativehope.org/starr-chief-eagle>



S**TARR CHIEF EAGLE** specializes in traditional Lakota hoop dancing and uses her talent to share her culture and traditions with students and organizations around the world. Have your students reflect on these questions before the show:

- 1 What are some **traditions** your family has or has passed down to you?
- 2 Define the word “**culture**.” What does it mean to you?
- 3 Is your family part of a certain culture? What are some of the activities your family does to celebrate your culture?
- 4 Have you ever had an experience with a culture different from your own? Describe how it was similar to your culture and how it was different. (**Examples:** *special foods, observing a holiday you aren’t familiar with, seeing a cultural demonstration*).

Vocabulary to Know

Check these out before seeing **STARR CHIEF EAGLE!**

The Sioux (The Sioux Nation) are one of the largest and oldest Native American tribes in North America. They are made up of seven groups collectively called Oceti Sakowin, or “Seven Council Fires.” These groups identified themselves as either Dakota, Nakota, or Lakota depending on which three dialects they spoke.

Tradition is:

- A) an inherited, established, or customary pattern of thought, action, or behavior (such as a religious practice or a social custom).
- B) the handing down of information, beliefs, and customs by word of mouth or by example from one generation to another without written instruction.

Culture is the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group.

Heritage is the full set of traditions, beliefs, physical objects, and natural environments passed down to us from past generations. It shapes our shared identity and connects us to the history of our families, communities, and nations.

Ambassador is a person who acts as a representative or promoter of a specified activity.

Civilization is a large, complex human society. It features cities, a system of government, job specialization, and social classes. It also includes shared communication systems like writing.

Proscenium theatre is the “traditional” stage most people think of when they go to the theatre. The front of the stage is surrounded by a frame called the proscenium arch. On each side there is space where the audience cannot see, but that is where the actors are when not performing, as well as where moving set and props are placed.

Black box/black box theatre is like the name implies, it’s a big black box! It is one large room that can be turned into just about anything. The stage is the same level as the first row of the audience. Dayton Live’s PNC Arts Annex is a great example and is mostly fully malleable. It can operate as a black box, thrust, or sets can be built to create a proscenium.

Thrust stage is a theatrical stage that thrusts out into the audience, and the audience surrounds it by 3 sides. Sometimes, this is called a three-quarter thrust. The stage can be any number of shapes!

Native American Hoop Dance is an art form that takes place in many tribes. It features one dancer who uses a dozen or more hoops to form shapes and poses. In Native American culture, the circle or hoop is a representation of everything that is good such as unity, harmony, and balance. In the dance, the small hoops and the shapes they create can represent different storytelling elements such as animals or elements of nature. The four colors contained on each hoop that **STARR CHIEF EAGLE** uses represent the unity of the world, four human races, four directions, four seasons, and four winds.

While the exact origin of Hoop Dance is unclear, there are many stories that have been passed down through different Native American oral traditions. One well-known story is the Creator sent a dying man the gift of wooden hoops and the dance as the final way to touch the world before he was gone. Tribes



in the Southwest believe that cliff-dwelling people created the hoops and dance, so that their children could be more graceful in physical activities. In the Anishinaabe culture, they tell the story of a young boy who did not share the same interest as the other boys in his tribe. He did not enjoy hunting or animals, and he was often found alone, observing the animals. He was disowned by his father due to his unwillingness to conform to traditional male roles in the tribe. He continued to study the movements of bears, eagles, snakes, and birds and could mimic them. Those movements he created later became the Hoop Dance.

The Pueblo people are credited for the revival of the modern Hoop Dance in the 1930s. **Tony White Cloud** belongs to the Jemez Pueblo tribe and is known as the founder of the modern Hoop Dance. He used hoops that were made of willow branches and were decorated with hand painted Pueblo symbols. The five hoops he used were 24 inches in diameter and were large enough to allow Tony White Cloud's body through them. He then invented different stylized movements that were part of his culture and traditional upbringing. The movements he created are now the foundation of hoop formations and routines used by other dancers. While watching Starr Chief Eagle perform, think of the different movements her body is creating and what she could be trying to symbolize.



Tony White Cloud

Lakota history is traditionally passed down from generation to generation through the art of storytelling. Older people within the tribe will teach younger members these stories to ensure the culture continues. Here are some key traditions and stories found within Lakota history.

Eagle – The eagle is viewed as the strongest and bravest bird. The eagle and its feathers symbolize being highest, bravest, strongest, or holiest in the tribe. When giving out an eagle feather, it is an honor, and they are then worn with pride and dignity. Eagle feathers are treated with such respect that when they are dropped during a dance, there is a special ceremony when they are picked up. When an eagle feather is waved over someone, it is to wish bravery and happiness. When the feather is waved over everyone present in the ceremony, it is to bring peace, prosperity, and happiness.



Traditional Beaded Clothing – Dresses with massive, beaded areas were made during the reservation period when the time for sedentary activity was more plentiful. This was a “best dress,” worn only for special occasions. Patterns and symbols used on clothing have special significance and tell a story, often one that brings honor to the tribe, warrior, or family. Mothers and grandmothers made distinctly decorated moccasins, shirts, vests, dresses, and pants for children to wear for ceremonies and other special occasions.



Keya – This is the Lakota word for turtle. The turtle in Lakota tradition represents the guardian of life, longevity, and fortitude. When a baby is born, they are given an amulet in the shape of a turtle to protect the newborn from illness.



Tatanka – This is the Lakota word for buffalo. Buffalos were hunted by the Lakota people and to show respect for the buffalo giving their life to feed them, they used every part of the buffalo. The buffalo serves as a symbol in Lakota ceremonies and represents self-sacrifice.



Lakota Terms

Mitákuye Oyás’iŋ [*mee-tah-koo-yay oh-yah-seen*] – “we are all related,” or “all things are connected”

Can Cega [*chun chay-guh*] – drum

Canpaza [*chun-pah-zah*] – ancient term for tree

Cante [*chun-tay*] – heart

Cetan [*chay-than*] – hawk, or small falcon

Hanhepi/Hanhepi Wi [*hahn-hay-pe/hahn-hay-pee wee*] – night, the night sun (moon)

Maka [*mah-kah*] – earth mother

Sources: Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center, South Dakota State Historical Society, Native Hope

Values are the beliefs people have that are a core part of who they are and how they interact with their communities. Values can be cultural or personal and help you know what is right and wrong.

Wóčekiya – Prayer: The Lakota believe Mother Earth is sacred, and so they honor and respect her greatly. They give thanks to the Creator daily through living consciously and by praying to the Great Spirit. The Lakota people believe that the land does not belong to them, but rather that we belong to the land. As such, they recite daily prayers of thanks to Mother Earth and the Great Spirit for all they continue to bless us with and for the great privilege and honor of life.

Wóksape – Wisdom: Wisdom has to do with understanding the meaning within natural processes and patterns. It means knowing the design and purpose of life. The knowledge and wisdom of elders are very important for the well-being of the Lakota people. This is understood to be something sought and gained over the course of one's entire life.

Wówaunšila – Compassion: Compassion and care for all especially the old ones, the young ones, those in mourning, those who work helping the people. Care for others as you would yourself because we are all part of this circle of life. Compassion is important to the Lakota people, as they all work together and lean on one another for support and survival.

Wacintaka – Fortitude: Fortitude is shown through facing dangers and challenges with courage, strength, and confidence. Lakota children learned these skills through games and creative play.

Wacantognaka – Generosity: Generosity in the Lakota tradition is shown by contributing to the well-being of one's people and all life by sharing and giving freely. In the tradition, the member of the tribe not only gives their personal possessions but offers up their kindness and their free time as well.

Wotitakuye – Kinship: Traditionally, wotitakuye includes the ideas of living in harmony within relationships and promotes the importance of trusting others. In this belief, the family unit is the measure of your wealth and is your main support system.

Waóhola – Respect: Respect for the self, family, community, and all life. For people to live together in peace, they have to respect one another. The old are respected for their wisdom, and the young are respected because they are the people's future. This attitude also means reverence for all other living things in the world.

Source: Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center

DISCUSSION

As a class, in groups, or pairs, talk through the following prompts.

1. What are some of your personal (core) values? (**Examples:** kindness, academic integrity, family time, responsibility)
2. Do you have values that make up your culture that are important to you?
3. What do these values mean to you?

NAME _____ Date: _____

Fill out the chart using the following prompts:

I learned

This is a Lakota term or belief you learned about in this Resource Guide or at STARR CHIEF EAGLE

In my culture

What might this be similar to in your culture?

It looks like

Draw a picture that represents what you learned today.

Terms	I learned:	In my culture:	It looks like:
Hoop Dancing			
The Eagle			
Wacantognaka			
Wotitakuye			
Wacintaka			
Keya			
Beaded Clothing			

The majority of Lakota star quilts, wičháhpi owínža, are dominated by a single star. However, multiple and broken star patterns are not uncommon. The single star is made of small diamond shaped patches pieced together in eight sections. When these sections are joined together, the eight-sided stars are formed. The star pattern is derived from early buffalo robe designs. The extermination of the buffalo herds coincided roughly with the implementation of the first mission schools where the craft of quilting was taught. The pattern bears a resemblance to various Anglo-American designs dating to the 18th century.

The morning star is an important figure in Lakota ceremonies. It represents the direction from which spirits travel to earth and is a link between the living and the dead (in extension), thus symbolizing immortality. At funerals, a quilt is draped behind the casket, replacing the traditional, red-painted buffalo hide. Today, star quilts are one of the most valued gifts of the Lakota people, often made for “give-away” events such as memorial feasts, celebrations, naming ceremonies, and marriages.

Source: Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center



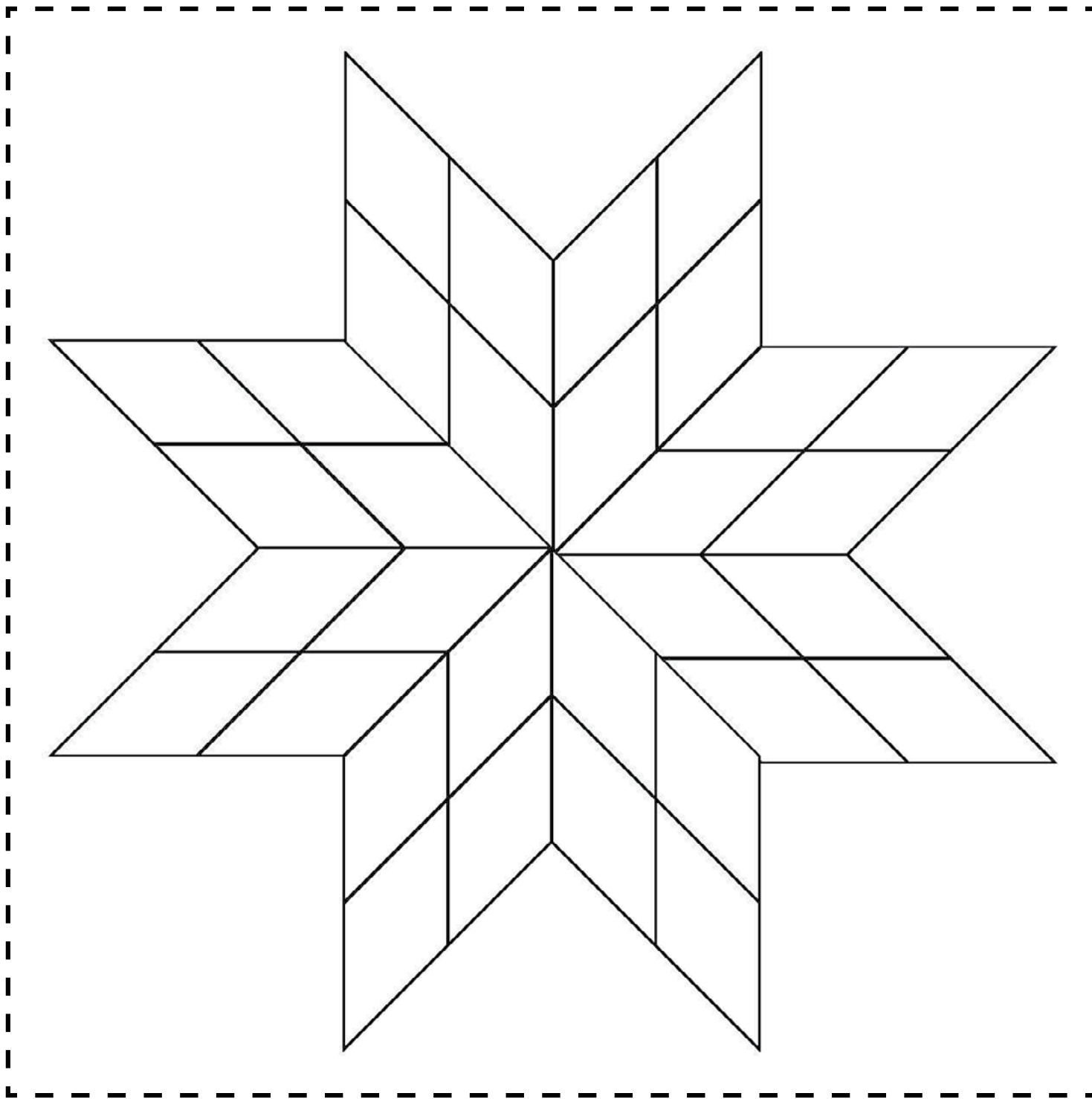
STAR QUILT DESIGN



The Lakota word for quilt is **Owinja**. The most familiar symbol in Lakota quilts is the star. The star is made of small diamond shaped patches pieced together in eight sections. When these sections are joined together, an eight-sided star is formed. Try designing your own eight-sided star using one of the three patterns provided. You can create patterns, symbols that have special meaning to you and your family, or anything else you can imagine. **Cut out and combine the stars of your classmates to create your own personal classroom quilt!** Use the images of star quilt patterns found on this page as inspiration for your own star.

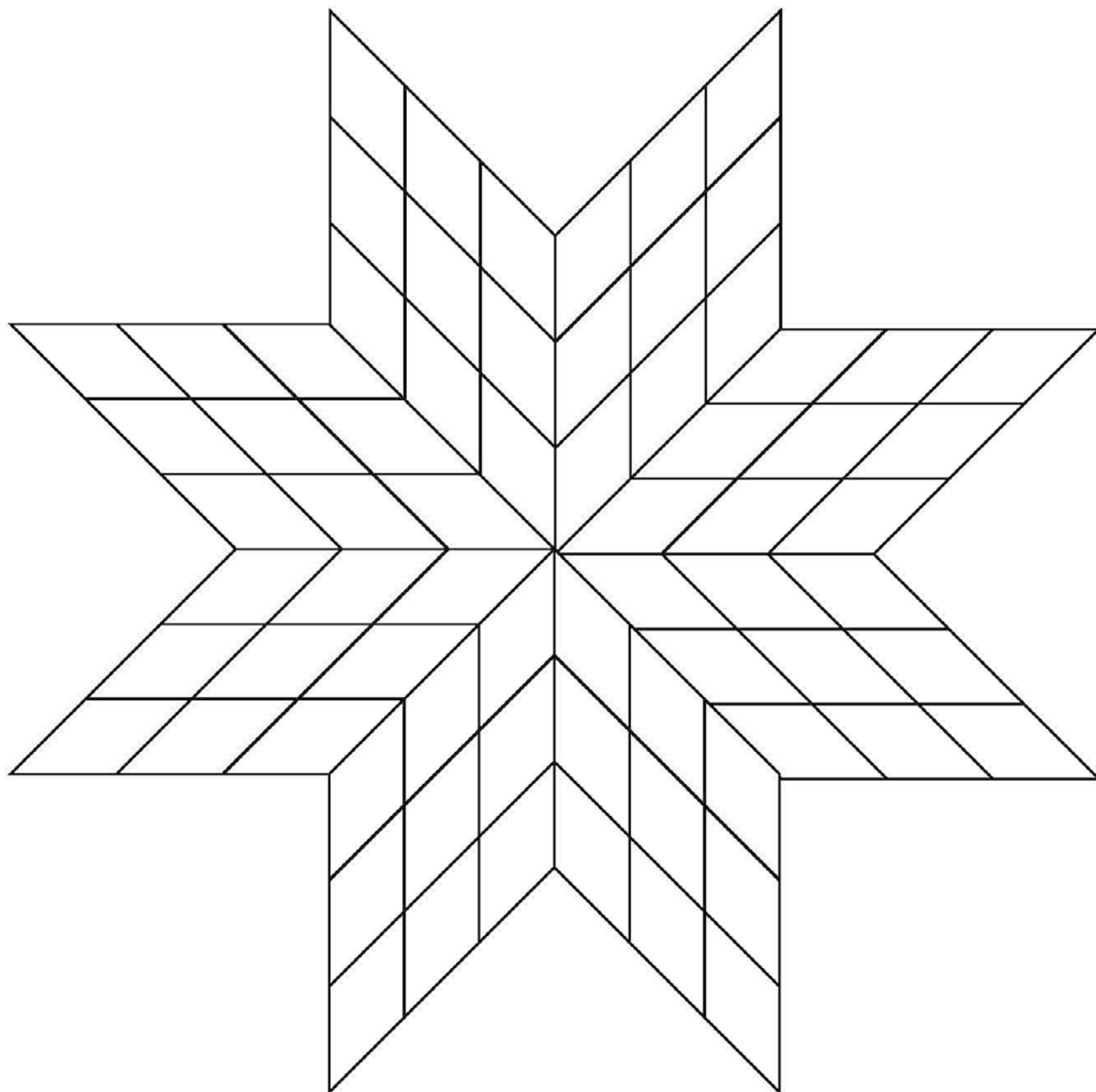
32 Diamonds

cut on dotted line



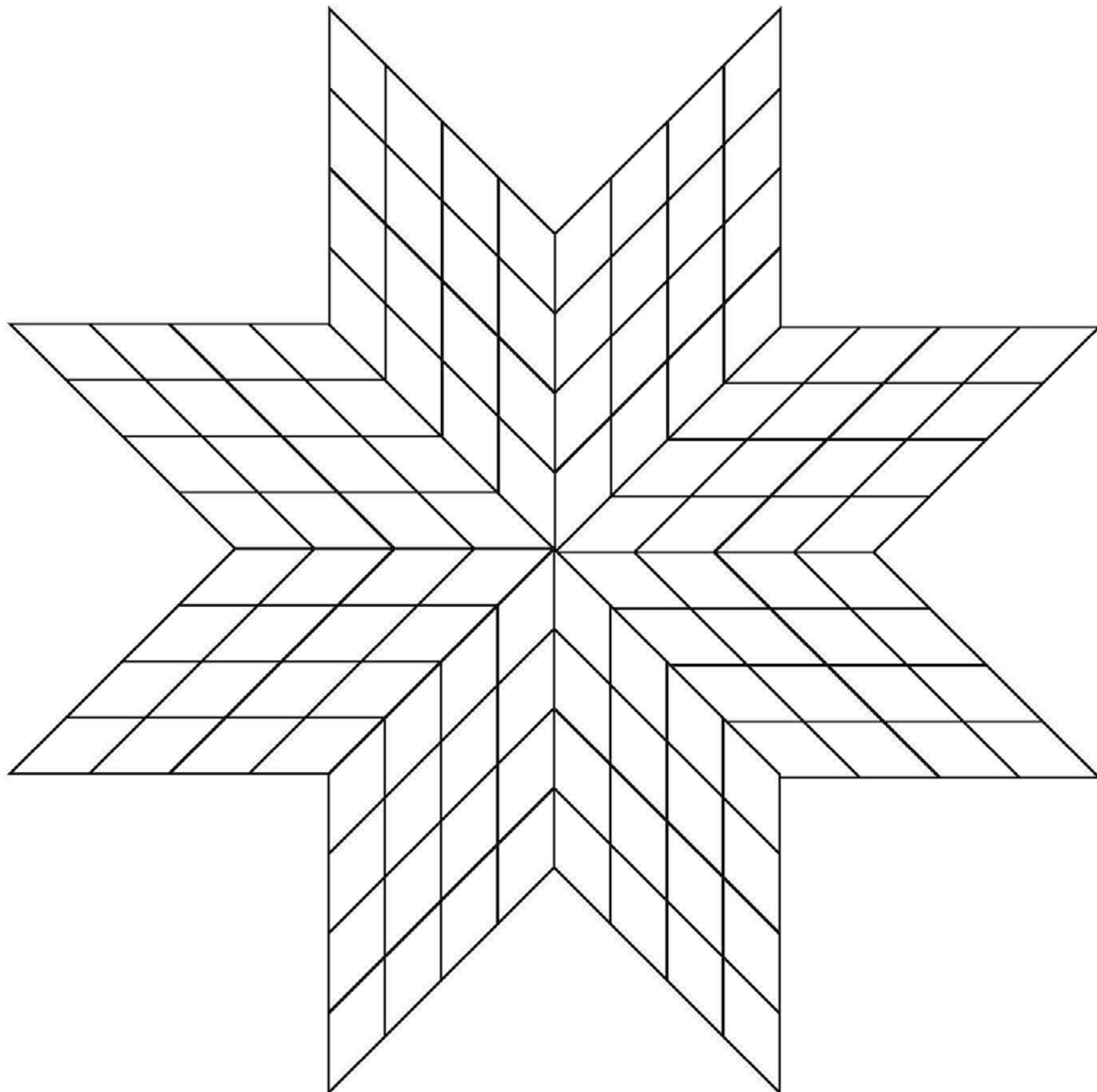
72 Diamonds

cut on dotted line



128 Diamonds

cut on dotted line



Post-Show Conversation Starters

FINE
ARTS

SEL

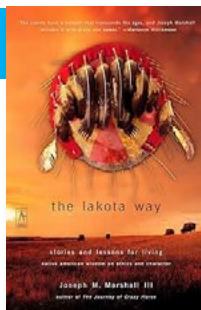
SOCIAL
STUDIES

- 1 There are many different types of live performance. You may think of "traditional" plays and musicals first, but there are many experiences like you saw today, ballet, opera, dance, concerts, and more. All the arts used to create and present today's performance are the same as any other showcase of a performing art! Can you identify the different components that you saw?
- 2 How might theatrical performances allow you to explore other subject areas? What subject areas did you get to connect with today?
- 3 The PNC Arts Annex theatre is a very different space than most are used to! How did Starr use the black box theatre and thrust stage to connect with the audience? How might your experience been different if she performed on a proscenium stage?
- 4 What part of today's show was most interesting to you? Why?

Resources for Students & Teachers

Books for Educators

The Lakota Way: Stories and Lessons for Living written by Joseph Marshall III. Viking Adult, 2001.



Online Resources for Students & Educators

WoLakota Project - <https://www.wolakotaproject.org/>

Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center - The website offers information about Lakota Culture, prayers, and legends as well as biographies of chiefs and artists within the Lakota community. <https://aktalakota.stjo.org/>

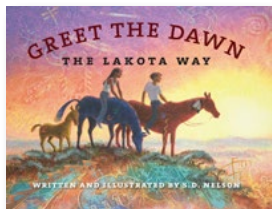
South Dakota State Historical Society - This resource provides detailed information on various art forms from the Sioux Nation. <https://history.sd.gov/>

Native Hope Blog - Explore voices and stories of Natives, as well as learn more about the Lakota way. <https://blog.nativehope.org/>

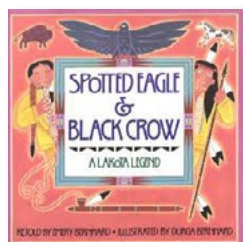
Starr Chief Eagle - <https://www.healingthebrokenhoop.com/>

Books for Students

Greet the Dawn: The Lakota Way written by S.D. Nelson. South Dakota State Historical Society, 2012.



Walking with Grandfather: The Wisdom of Lakota Elders written by Joseph Marshall III. Sounds True, 2005.



Spotted Eagle and Black Crow: A Lakota Legend written by Emery Bernhard. Holiday House, Incorporated, 1993.

Thanks for coming today! We would love to hear about your experience at the show. Use the lines and boxes below to write and/or draw about your trip.

Dear Dayton Live,

My favorite part of the show was _____

I really loved when _____

I wish that _____

Thank you for _____

My favorite part of the show was

I really loved when

I wish that

Thank you for

Email your surveys to
<https://www.daytonlive.org/series/discovery/>

or mail to: Dayton Live
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DAYTON LIVE
DISCOVERY

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DAYTON LIVE CREATIVE ACADEMY

Interested in learning more about theatre?!

The Dayton Live Creative Academy offers a variety of professionally curated performing arts experiences for all ages. From classes for beginners, and summer camps for the adventurous, to Broadway after-school intensives for the curious, there are year-round activities for everyone in the family. Join us for fun, for adventure, and to develop your own creativity. This is performing arts education for **EVERYONE!**



Starr has performed the art of Hoop Dancing around the world and continues her outreach in Paha Sapa, Black Hills of South Dakota, Crazy Horse, Mount Rushmore, and in schools, camps, and classrooms. She continues to pursue learning about the language, history, and art of the Lakota people as she is pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Lakota Studies.

Rephrased from:

<https://artscouncil.sd.gov/ta/starr.aspx>

