



mazinibaganjigan (birchbark biting)

Birchbark biting started with First Nations women who took paper thin pieces of birchbark and used different parts of their teeth to create intricate and beautiful patterns. This type of art has been practiced for nearly ten thousand years.

Birchbark can be collected from paper birch trees during the time of year when the wild roses start to bloom and the dragon flies come out (beginning of July). A vertical cut is made into the birch tree and then the bark can easily be removed. Removing bark from a birch tree does not kill the tree if it is collected properly. The tree will have a scar for a couple of years and then return to its white and papery appearance. Birchbark can be used to build canoes, homes, baskets, etc.

Fun fact: you can boil water in a birchbark basket!



