

# Native American Heritage: Drawing Totem Poles

**Totem poles** are carvings of symbols, animals, or people into a tree and represent stories or important events. Historically, totem poles were created by native people of the Pacific Northwest. Totem poles were created to represent the **importance of family in the community** and were often on display in their towns for everyone to see. Below, design your own totem pole by following the directions for each part VERY carefully.



## Draw your family totem pole

#1. In the **top section**, draw a symbol of something that is important in your community.

#2 In the **middle** part, have a person in your home draw the head of an animal that they think represents you.

#3 In the **bottom** part, draw any animal or symbol that you believe represents your family.

#4 Use crayons or colored pencils to complete your totem pole. **Remember to use good craftsmanship.**

Now that you have drawn your Totem Pole. Examine the parts that you drew. Is there anything that you can improve? Of course there is! Go back and make those revisions. **What did you correct?**

Look at your totem pole now. **What is one thing that you feel you did very well?**

**If you were to draw a totem again, what would you do different? Why?**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dragon	Longevity, richness, prosperity, infinity, wisdom, power
Dragonfly	Flighty and carefree, strong imagination, higher aspirations
Eagle	Divine spirit, sacrifice, connection to creator, intelligence, renewal, courage, illumination of spirit, healing, creative, risk taker
Elephant	Strong, powerful, affectionate, loyal, royal, wise
Elk	Strength, agility, pride, majestic, independent, pure, strong, noble
Falcon	New beginnings, adventure, passion, leadership
Fish	Graceful, sly, open-minded, quick to change one's mind
Flamingo	Heart healing, psychic, people person
Fox	Cunning, agility, quick-witted, diplomatic, wild, shape-shifting
Frog	Water energy, cleansing, rebirth, sensitivity, medicine, hidden beauty, peace, adaptability, poor character judgment, power
Giraffe	Communication, intuition, attaining the unreachable, seeing the future
Goat	Sure, stubborn, independent, diligent, lack of foresight
Goose	Self-demanding, reliable, prudent, rigid, vigilant, productive
Gorilla	Family oriented, intelligent, strong, protector, keeps peace
Grasshopper	Good luck, abundance, forward, progressive
Hawk	Messenger, intuition, victory, healing, noble, guardianship
Hippopotamus	Power, creation, imagination healing
Horse	Freedom, stamina, mobility, travel, power, freedom
Hummingbird	Messenger, timelessness, healing, warrior
Jaguar	Chaos, shape-shifter, aggressive, power
Kangaroo	Forward, balanced, creative, stamina
Lion	Family, strength, energy, courage, guardian, protector
Lizard	Conservation, vision, self-protection, hidden defenses
Llama	Comforting to others, secure
Lynx	Keeper of secrets, guardian, listener, and guide
Mole	Sensitivity, guidance, searching
Monkey	Health, success
Moose	Headstrong, longevity, steadfast, wise
Mouse	Scrutiny, order, organizer, and an eye for details