Scrimshaw

Another important colonial job we learned about in camp today was that of a sailor! At a time when planes, trains and automobiles didn't exist, the sea was the fastest way to travel! Life at sea wasn't easy, but when men were off shift from working, they did many crafts to kill time! The art they created on the bones of nautical creatures eventually turned into a form of art!

This can be a messy project. Consider wearing a smock and covering your work surface.

- Step 1: Find the following materials in your kit:

    - Blank White Paper

    - Pencil

    - Scrimshaw Disc

    - Needle *(be careful when handling!!)*

    - Black ink or paint *(Use quill ink or paint from your kit.)*

    - Paint brush

    - Brown Felt Square

- Step 2: Before etching your design onto the white disc, you will want to decide what you want to draw and sketch it out! You might want to have a nautical theme, like in the example above, or just make something of your own. For your first try, keep your design very simple.

- Step 3: Next, you will move onto sketching your design onto your disc using the needle from your kit. Remember, you will hold the dull end of the needle and sketch with the sharp end. You will need to be careful with the needle, as it can easily poke or scratch you- and it will hurt.

- Step 4: When you have finished scratching your design, apply black paint or ink to the top of your disc.

- Step 5: Gently wipe the black paint off your disc with the brown felt. If your scratches were deep enough, paint will be left over in the design you sketched, but nowhere else!

- Step 6: If paint came off from your design, you can continue to etch your design deeper into the scrimshaw disc and try again!
- Step 7: Once the black paint is embedded in your design, let the paint dry, and your scrimshaw disc will be done!