Family Totem Pole Project

Totem poles are collections of symbols that represent important events, stories, or relationships in the history of families in Native American tribes. A totem pole tells a story about the tribe family or their ancestors through symbols.

For this project, you will construct a totem pole of your own with symbols that represent events and ideas that are important to your family history. Then you will write about a paragraph sharing the special meaning behind your unique totem pole.

Instructions

1. Design and Create your Totem Pole.

* Be creative! Your totem pole should be about the size of a paper towel holder, but the materials are up to you! You might use cardboard, wood, styrofoam, clay, or anything else you can think of to make an eye-catching totem pole! Be sure to look at some of the examples on our website.
* Think about the virtues, events or ideas that are important to your family. Choose four to represent on your totem pole. Look at the list of symbols attached and on our website for some ideas. Design and attach these animal symbols, keeping in mind that the largest animal is usually on the bottom.

1. Write about your Totem Pole.

* Write a paragraph about how you created your totem pole and the special meanings each symbol represents. Use many descriptive words and you explain how these symbols are important in your family “story.”
* Be sure to edit carefully for spelling and sentence structure. You may write your paragraph on the paper provided or type and print it out.

Please be prepared to present your project to the class. **Read the attached rubric carefully so you are aware of the expectations for this project.**

Your Family Totem Pole project is due **Friday, January 12th.**

**We look forward to your creations!**