

# Ojibwe Fingerweaving



- **Dennis White,**
  - Superintendent at the Lac Courte Oreilles School in Hayward, Wisconsin
  - Master in Math education
  - Researched fingerweaving at the National Museum of the American Indian
  - Trying to bring back the lost art to the Ojibwe community around Hayward

# Fingerweaving

- “Finger weaving was at one time an important and widespread art among our people in the Great Lakes, but now there are not that many people in Wisconsin and Michigan that actually do the weaving at the advanced level,” White said





# Fingerweaving and math



- Mezinaaakwad (Dennis White) has a great love of all things mathematical. He sees numbers everywhere and is endlessly fascinated by the patterns in finger weaving as expressions of multiples and symmetry.



- As he examined artifacts from the 1850's and 1860's at the Smithsonian, one of the things he focused on was the number of threads in each traditional pattern. "These people didn't get to study mathematics at Van Vleck hall in Madison," he says, "but they did some neat things, and it's amazing that they had a sense for the numbers that were always there."





# Social Studies

## *Styles régionaux de fléché*

*L'Assomption*



*Charlevoix*



*Acadienne*



- All indigenous cultures used some form of finger weaving to make bags, belts and harnesses
- During the North American Fur Trade, Trading Companies were identified by the style and pattern of their sashes



- Instructions for finger weaving
- Instructions for Friendship Bracelet