

# Leather Working in Early US History

## 2024-2025



Brittany Davis taught a 90-minute leather working workshop in November 2024 to two eighth grade United States history classes at Anderson Valley Junior Senior High School. During the sessions, students learned how to cut straight or curved lines using rotary cutters, use a ruler to measure and mark even lines, use a hole punch, use a rivet press, stamp designs, and sew with waxed thread.



The Leather Working in Early United States History project was a collaboration between Brittany Davis, owner of Brass + Blade, and Julie Honegger, junior high history teacher. Students' finished pouches are on display in their history classroom. At the end of the school year they will be displayed at the Schoolwide Exhibition of Student Work.

Thirty-one students made a leather pouch similar to the style soldiers in the Continental Army may have used during the American Revolution. Students learned about the ancient art of tanning, the importance of hunting and trapping in the economy of the American colonies, and the uses of leather in clothing and horse-riding by colonial soldiers during the American Revolution.



With their experience provided by Brittany Davis during her workshop, students will design a second pouch in the second semester of the school year. This will give students an opportunity to design and cut their own patterns, rather than using pre-cut pieces, experience the process that is involved in designing something as simple as a pouch, and be able to be creative and make a uniquely decorated leather object.

