

LIFE IN ANCIENT EGYPT: Art

Make An Egyptian-Style Necklace

A Classroom and Museum Activity

Subject Areas: Social Studies, Mathematics, Fine Arts

Created By: Leslie Travis, William H. Ray Elementary School, Chicago, IL.

For Grade Level: Special Education, Grade 2

Meets Illinois State Goals: 5, 7, 9, 16, 25, 26, 27

Time Needed: Several class sessions

Objectives:

Students will observe necklaces in ancient and modern times.

Students will recognize that some ideas about personal decoration and adornment have remained constant over time.

Students will find a specific object in the museum gallery.

Students will use sorting, estimating, and patterning skills to create their own necklace.

Students will realize that they can create a necklace using the same techniques that the ancient Egyptians used, although they will use modern materials.

Materials:

A completed button necklace for the teacher to wear

Several pounds of buttons in various shapes, sizes and colors

Tapestry needles

Straws cut into 1" lengths

Upholstery thread

Index cards and pencils

Suggested Procedure:

1. Before visiting the Egyptian Gallery at the Oriental Institute Museum, have students look through picture books about ancient Egypt to find examples of jewelry that people wore. Many of the illustrations in fiction are good, but the non-fiction books which have actual photographs of artifacts will be more useful. Ancient Egypt from the Eyewitness series is an excellent source book.

2. On the day of your field trip to the museum, the teacher should wear a button necklace of the type that students will make later. The teacher should tell students that while they are in the gallery, they should look for the necklace that looks most like the one that their teacher is wearing and that matches the illustrations in their book.

3. In the Egyptian gallery of the museum, the students should be told that they need to find a necklace and study it carefully enough so that they will be able to make one themselves. The teacher should show the button necklace he/she is wearing, and remind the students to look for the necklace that looks most like it and like the illustrations in the book. When they have found one, they should record data about it on their index card, answering these three questions:

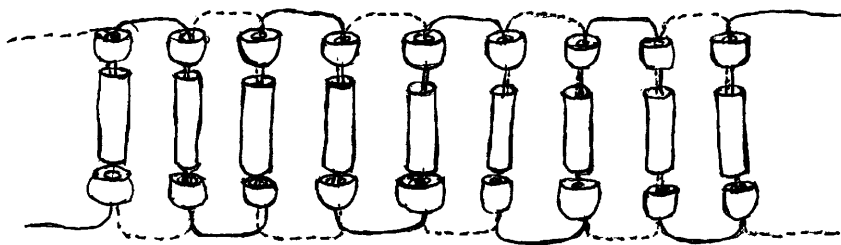
- a) What color is it?
- b) Are the beads the same or different?
- c) Estimate how many beads are on the strand.

4. Back in the classroom, working in groups of four, each group will be given a container of buttons and four threaded tapestry needles. Students will be told to make their own single strand button necklace or a triple strand bead and straw necklace that looks like an Egyptian necklace by referring to their index card data and stringing buttons, beads, and straws. The teacher will have to tie the thread off when the necklace is completed. When the necklaces are finished, several can be fastened together to make a broad collar necklace.



For the single strand necklace above, the thread goes through one hole in each button.

For the triple strand necklace below, two threads are used. We found it easier not to use a needle, because it was simpler to tie on extra thread as it was needed.



Evaluation:

The rubric for evaluation of this project is:

Successful completion of a single or triple strand necklace.

Ability to verbalize what pattern was chosen for either necklace.

Ability to identify which stringing patterns were used in illustrations in books.

Ability to verbalize how the materials in these necklaces are different from the materials that the ancient Egyptians used.