

Make a Beaded Necklace



Wampum are purple and white beads made from mollusk shells, like clams or mussels, that were and are used by Indigenous people for decorative and ceremonial purposes. The beads in your kit are not made of shell, but glass. The string is similar to sinew that Indigenous people used for string. Try making a necklace using the traditional Abenaki colors of white and purple.

Materials:

Purple and white beads

Sinew or string with a clasp at one end

Very small metal ring (taped to baggie) - optional

Instructions:

1. Begin stringing the beads onto the sinew. The holes are very small, so this task may take a lot of patience. You can make a pattern with your beads or just string them randomly.

Note: If your string is too long, you can cut it to whatever length you desire.

2. When you have finished stringing, tie a knot in the end of the sinew that doesn't have the clasp.

Note: Stop stringing with a few inches left so you are able to tie a knot.

3. At this point, you can tie the tiny metal ring to the end of the string so that it will clasp with the other side or you can tie a loop at the end of the string and use that to clasp.

