

NR1313 Marcie McIntier, Bead Artist

Grade Level: 6-8

Standards:

MN 6.1.3.5.1 1. Compare and contrast the connections among visual artworks, their purposes, and their personal, social, cultural and historical contexts, including the contributions of Minnesota American Indian tribes and communities.

MN 6.1.3.5.2 2. Analyze the meanings and functions of visual art.

Objectives:

1. Learn the history and significance of Native American beadwork as function and as art.
2. Design and make a beaded bracelet or bookmark with small/medium sized glass or plastic beads using needle and thread.

Time Frame: 2-3 class periods

Materials needed:

- 1- 2" x 5" piece of fabric per student
- approximately 300 seed beads per student or pony beads
- small needles
- thread
- scissors
- pencil
- paper cut 2" x 5" for each student

Lesson Plan:

Watch Marcie McIntier <https://youtu.be/YQCbRzzkhgc>

Discuss:

- Do you think beading is a form of artwork, why or why not?
- Why did Native American's use beading on their clothes or accessories?
- Did beading have any connection with the tribe it came from?

Teachers note: you will want to have a partially finished example to show students, as well as start a new example step by step with your students.

1. Watch a teacher led demonstration on how to create a design for a bracelet (use different colored pencils to mark off different colored beads)
2. You are only using $\frac{1}{2}$ the width of your fabric, finished piece will only be 1 inch wide.
3. Knot your thread, come up from the bottom of your fabric, string your beads, and then pull your needle back through the fabric from top to bottom, knot your thread. Cut thread and begin next row. Repeat these steps until desired length is achieved.

4. Once finished beading, fold fabric in half lengthwise inside out. Sew along the outer edges of the fabric, leave the ends open. Turn your fabric right side out so beads are on the outside. Sew both ends shut.

Encourage students to be creative with their patterns, however the more colors you use the more difficult the pattern is to follow, the easiest pattern is stripes.