

BEAD MAKING, MADE EASY

Make hundreds of beads quickly and easily with the **Axner Bead Roller** (Axner number TM850)



Lesson Purpose

Bead making is one of our very first arts, as humans. Beads are still made from many natural materials, both organic such as animals, stones and shells, or botanical and inorganic like minerals. Primitive man wore necklaces made from animal bones, claws and teeth of slain animals. They learned to create polished wooden beads, colorful seeds and pieces of palm, bamboo and tropical hardwoods producing attractive necklaces and bracelets. As clay and glass became more readily available the use of beads socially and economically flourished. Beads have been used throughout the world for many different reasons such a religious, i.e. rosary beads; trade or currency, i.e. Aggrey beads from Ghana; spiritual, i.e. worry beads; and for playing children's games such as the Owari beads. The history of beading is a story of social and economic impact on people of every continent and culture, and revival of old ideas into new.

The Axner Bead System is available at www.Axner.com or from Laguna Distributors nation wide for more lessons, inspirational writing about clay and to see pieces made with Laguna products, visit www.lagunaclay.com/blogs

The standards for this lesson

VA.A.1.2.1 Uses and organizes two-dimensional and three-dimensional media, techniques, tools, and processes to produce works of art that are derived from personal experience, observation, or imagination.

VA.A.1.2.3 Knows the effects and functions of using various organizational elements and principles of design when creating works of art.

VA.A.1.2.4 Uses good craftsmanship in a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional media.

What will my students be able to do when they finish this lesson or unit?

How to use clay and create a beautiful bead, thinking of the processes and skills involved. The student will learn by exploring with clay, what the clay body can/not do. By creating beads, the student will learn how to create shapes and combining them with color by using their hands and various tools.

What assessment tools will I use?

Student will be able to identify different types of uses for beads. Through presentation of their beads each student will be assessed on if the beads are complete and were done neatly. The student will also be assessed on the creativity of the beads in relation to their use.

Who will assess student performance and how will this be done?

I will assess student's performance based on written information gathered on a bead use of their choice and the beads they create.

How will I report the assessment results?

I will grade each student under the following point system:

Are the beads complete and done neatly _____/30pts

Creativity of the bead design _____/30pts

Student discusses 3 facts about the bead use they choose _____/20pts

Student uses a clear voice and eye contact when speaking _____/10pts

Student hands in the project on time _____/10pts

How will the lesson be introduced?

I will explain that clay has always been an abundant natural source and has been readily available especially to the poor. While the wealthy Europeans of the late Roman Empire wore precious stones and metals, the migratory tribe's people adorned themselves with clay. Native Americans have always had a strong history with clay beads. They used beads as adornment in jewelry as well as a way to trade. How these beads were crafted by hand said a lot about the methods and culture of the Native American Indian. Some tribes have "story bead" necklaces where symbols and figures were carved into flat pieces of turquoise or some other type of stone and strung with other beads. Mothers then used the necklaces to illustrate stories handed down from generation to generation.

The Native Americans wore beads for decoration and status within the tribe. They also began wearing beads to protect and ensure health and to use the beads as a form of payment for the healing process.

Health and healing were among the most important concerns of Native Americans. Many Native American cultures viewed illness not as the result of some biochemical, physiological, or psychological malady, but as a sign of disorder in their society or their world, which is then reflected in the illness of an one of its tribes members. Diagnosis was then a concern for the entire community/tribe not just the individual Indian.

The Southeastern Native Americans, Cherokee Indians, like most tribes had healers, or commonly known as medicine men/women, which are like modern day doctors. When healing a patient, the first activity of a medicine healer was to diagnose the cause of the ailment. The medicine healer would question the patient regarding his or her dreams and possible taboo violations.

If there is a problem making the diagnosis, the medicine healer would use a method known as "examining the beads". The beads were known as Adalon and were probably originally a seed, but it evolved to bead. To examine the beads, the medicine healer would hold a black bead, the Adalon between thumb and index finger of the left hand, a white or red bead between forefinger and thumb of the right hand, and while reciting a ritual or question to the Earth, the healer would then examine what are the answer was for the sick man. The brisk movements of the right hand bead gave the healer an affirmative answer; if the beads were in a sluggish movement or remained motionless, the healer would receive a negative answer. These beads were considered the preeminent instrument for determining a true diagnosis and prognosis. Once the diagnosis is complete, the medicine man prescribes the proper medicine.

Each student will be able to identify different types of uses for beads. They will then create beads in different colors and styles to be worn or to be traded with fellow students.

What procedures will I follow?

1. Introduce the lesson by discussing the history of clay beads in the State of Florida and their common uses.
2. Have students research the different uses for beads around the world.
3. Have students present a brief description of a bead use they have researched.

5. Provide a ball of clay.

6. Demonstrate how to make a clay coil.

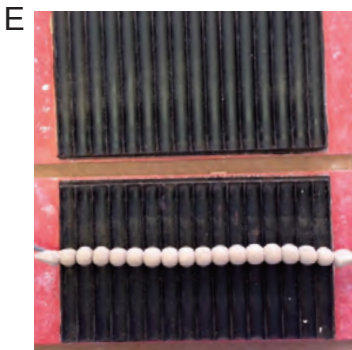
Make a coil by hand and create the groove for the rubber stringer with a tool...a perfect way to show how Indians might have formed beads using plant fiber as a stringer and sticks for tools.



Or use the Axner clay gun and bead die...



7. Have students create several beads with the bead making system.



Using coils to make beads is quite easy with the Axner Bead Stretch Tubes and the Axner Bead Roller as seen in steps A through F.

8. Provide tools for creating and decorate unique beads.
9. Cover with plastic to dry the clay beads.
10. Handout dried project for presentation and take home.

Let the beads dry to leatherhard before removing from the Axner Bead Stretch Tubes. Just stretch the stringer and the beads will release. You may wish to smooth with a slightly wet sponge when they are bone dry.



If you wish to fire for more permanent beads...the beads can be bisqued in a bone dry geeware cup or bowl. The Axner Bead Stretch Tubes can be used to keep bead centers free from glaze and in place when glazing.

What activities will my students complete?

Each student will research about the use of clay beads and choose one method to report on. Each student will be provided with a ball of clay to coil and then make beads with.

How will you summarize the lesson?

I will recap a few of the uses of beads within the Cherokee Indians and how through the use of clay, we can create beads for exchange or personal adornment.

What instructional materials will I use for this lesson?

- Axner Colored Porcelain Sample pack A027020
- Ceramic tools including: fettling knife (Axner number A145805), clay cutter (Axner number A145826), needle tool (Axner number A145858) , modeling tool kit (Axner number A145882)
- Axner Bead Roller (Axner number TM850)
- Axner Bead Stretch Tubes TM835S
- Axner Bead Die TM849
- Axner Bead Racks & Rods (Axner number FS835S, FS835SR, FS835L, FS835LR)
- Newspaper
- Optional: Axner Avalanche Extruder (Axner Number A334900) with bead dies, Blue Heron medium extruderBlue Heron Large Clay Extruder (Axner number A334803) or Blue Heron Medium extruder (Axner number A334800)