

THE CORNER MAKES...



Island necklaces

Summary

Using images of beads made by Erub Artist in the Torres Strait for inspiration (refer to tips section below and link to Erub Arts website). This activity will see children creating their very own Island necklaces using simple materials and instructions. Just like Torres Strait Islander jewellery/bead makers today, encourage children to use more contemporary materials or objects they can find around the house.

Rationale

Torres Strait Islanders incorporate body ornaments and jewellery in their traditional costumes. The diversity of styles and materials differ from island to island. Materials were dependent on what sort of materials could be sourced on the island. Some common items included bird feathers, shells, animal bones/horns, shells and other natural fibres such as wood, various seeds and coconut fibre. Torres Strait islanders today also incorporate contemporary materials into their designs such as beads, glass, fabric etc.

Key Concepts

- Cultural identity, traditional and contemporary design, using found objects, algebraic patterning, counting, ordinal positions, communicating ideas, word groups, instructions (procedural texts), working in a group



Key Language

Culture and task specific language

Jewellery, natural materials, contemporary materials, Torres Strait Islanders.

Numeracy and literacy key words

Short, long, round, square, number, big(ger), small(er), greater, fewer, pattern, first, second third....., same, different

Colour (examples: red, yellow, Ceylon blue, white, rainbow, brown, light blue, grass green, indigo, ceruse, grey, goldfish orange, pinky purple)

Texture: Rough, smooth, hard, soft, silky, bouncy

Aims/learning objectives:

Early Years Learning Outcomes

- Explore the diversity of culture, heritage, background and tradition, and that diversity presents opportunities for choices and new understandings
- Begin to understand how text (necklace making) contributes to the development of cultural identity
- Engage in increasingly complex sensory and motor skills
- Experiment with ways of expressing ideas and meaning using a range of creative mediums

Literacy aims/objectives

- Communicate an idea/aesthetic using tactile creative play
- Use words and word groups within simple sentence structures when
 - asking modelled questions to seek permission, assistance and find out more information
 - using commands to give (peers) simple instructions
 - use relevant gestures, actions, comments and/or questions when communicating ideas about an art piece and the cultural context

Numeracy aims/objectives

- Count to and from 10 or 20, using one-to one correspondence from any starting point
- Indicate the ordinal position in a sequence as first, second, third...
- Identify how many in a collection of at least 10 or 20, using subitising (identifying small groups without counting)
- Sort and discriminate by size
- Compare and order collections and identify more (greater), less (fewer), the same as and not the same as and explain or attempt to explain reasoning



Targeted positive dispositions for learning

Enthusiasm, persistence, cooperation

Materials

String/wool
Wooden beads
Drinking straw
Raffia
Shell template
Feathers
Glue
Sticky tape on dispensers



Activity Steps

Explain the Island necklace making activity to children, showing the finished prototype.

- Refer to reference section below to Erub Erwer Meta website for inspiration images for Islander beads.

Strategic Questions:

- *Discuss materials available and the qualities of each eg. Raffia is a natural fibre and would make the necklace look more traditional; the use of the straws gives the piece a contemporary look.*

Step 1: Planning (designing)

Ask children to think about what sort of necklace design they would like to make and what sort of materials and colours they would like to use.

Strategic Questions:

- *What sort of materials can you use that you can find around your library/home?*
- *What colours are you going to use/using?*
- *Why did you choose these colours?*



Using the piece of wool or string, measure how long you would like your necklace to be. Loop one end and tie a knot big enough to secure the beads and other materials

Strategic Questions:

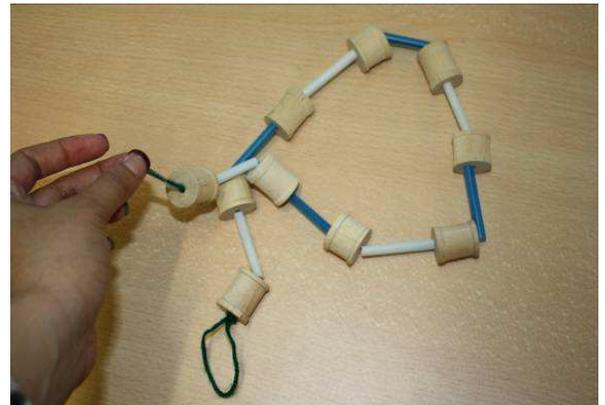
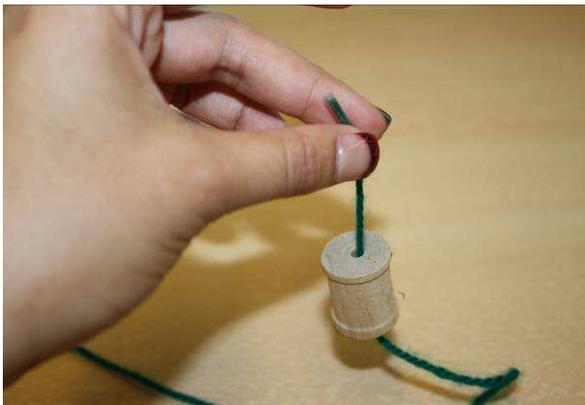
- Are you going to make a long or short necklace?



Step 3: Making

Start weaving/attaching materials through the piece of wool or string.

- Attached is some shell examples you can incorporate into your necklace design.
- Younger children can use the weaving as a time to practice counting or colour identification.
- Younger children may require help, but will be able to choose the elements they want to use.



Strategic Questions:

- Did you use objects from nature? /Where do you think these materials have come from? What else could they be used for?
- Why did you choose these materials? What do you like about them?
- Are you making a pattern? Can you see a pattern in your necklace? What pattern can you see/have you made?



Step 4: Final step

Once you have reached the other end of the string loop and knot, tying both ends of the necklace together. Parents may need to assist children with this.

There you have it your very own Island necklace creation!

Strategic Questions:

- *How many objects are on your necklace? Can you count them?*
- *Are they all the same size? Which ones are different?*
- *What makes them different to one another?*



Tips:

- Taping the end of the string/wool makes it much easier to weave through materials and stops the string from coming apart at the ends.
- Encourage older children to decorate the wooden beads with their own designs.
- Encourage children to draw their own shells to add onto their necklaces.
- If you have restrictions with material supply, why not go for a walk in your local area to find natural elements to add to your necklace? OR ask parents to go for a walk with children in their local area to find natural elements to make another necklace at home or next week. While you are weaving ask children about these elements - where they went and what they found.

References

<http://www.erubarts.com.au/> (go to catalogue)





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of queensland
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Presented by the State Library of Queensland.

