



BEAD-MAKING

Remember's Activities

Bead making was a vital and sometimes religious activity in Native American society. The Nauset and Wampanoag tribes would have used beads as a currency; the beads were used in trade and considered very valuable.

Things You'll Need:

Polymer clay
Butter knife
Toothpick
Baking sheet
Parchment paper
Acrylic paint
Acrylic crystal clear, shine sealer
Cording or string

Directions:

Knead your polymer clay until it is soft enough to mold. Squeeze it between your palms and fingers to smooth. Stretch and squeeze the clay until it is pliable.

Roll the clay into a long, snake-like cylinder. Cut the clay cylinder into sections. Determine what size you'd like the beads to be and use the putty knife to cut them accordingly. Shape each individual bead as desired and insert a toothpick through its center to form a hole. This hole will be used to string the beads later on.

Line a baking tray with a piece of parchment paper and place the beads onto the tray. Cover the beads with another sheet of parchment paper. Check the instructions of your polymer clay and bake in an oven accordingly.

Remove the beads from the oven after they are baked and allow them to cool. Once cooled, paint them with acrylic paint and spray with a crystal clear acrylic sealer for shine. Finally, string your beads onto cording or string and tie.

Ask a grown-up for help when using knives and other sharp objects, and when using candles. Be sure to use pot holders when handling warm wax.