

CRAFTING WITH AUNTIE AMBER Activity 2a

CULTURE 365 - GETTING CREATIVE SERIES
Presented in partnership with Dream Brokers

Beading Rope With Auntie Amber

WHAT WE ARE MAKING TODAY

Today Auntie Amber leads you through the steps to make a beaded rope, which can be used as a key chain or a necklace.

She uses the wrap-around beading technique in her instruction, but also describes some of the other methods used by beadworkers, while sharing nêhiyaw/nakoda stories and teachings.



Supplies Needed:

Paper, pencil, pencil crayons, 10 - 15" parachute cord, measuring tape or ruler, beading needle and thread, scissors, size 11 seed beads in 2-3 colours, beading plate, ½" X 2" fabric piece, white glue, and a rubber band.
Optional: hot glue gun (use with adult supervision), and a key ring.

STEP 1

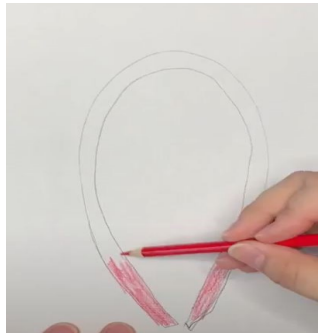
Gather your materials so they're nearby and ready to use.



STEP 2

Decide on the size of the beaded rope you want to make: 10" for a child's wrist; 15" for an adult's wrist.

Use a pencil to sketch the design on the paper; pick 2-3 colours and use the pencil crayons to colour the design.



STEP 3

Get your cord/rope that is already cut to the size you want; if the ends of the cord are frayed, trim those pieces.



IMPORTANT NOTE: By attempting this activity, you accept responsibility for your actions and indemnify SaskCulture, Sask Lotteries, contracted artists and/or its partners, officers, directors, employees, contractors, agents, volunteers against all claims, actions, suits, demands, losses, expenses, costs or damages of every kind.



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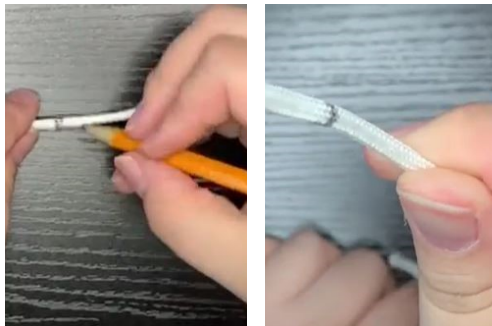
STEP 4

This is very important: ask an adult to burn both ends of the cord with a lighter so that the ends melt a little bit to prevent the rope from coming undone.



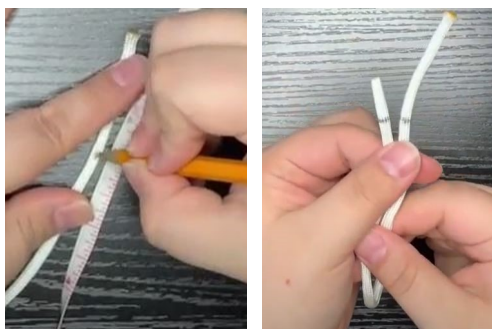
STEP 5

ADULT STEP: hold a flame to one end of the cord for a few seconds until slightly melted, and then carefully tap the melted end immediately with the bottom of the lighter to stop further melting. Do the same to the other end of the cord.



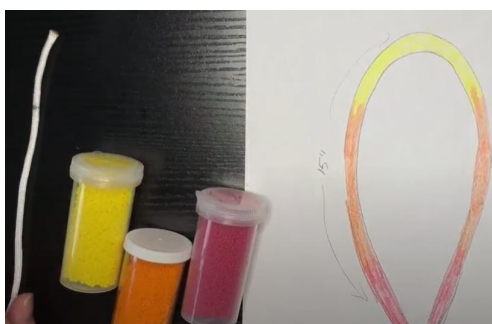
STEP 6

Lay the cord straight and with your ruler or measuring tape, make a pencil mark $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the end; then make sure the pencil mark wraps around the entire end of the cord so that it's completely visible.



STEP 7

On the other end of the cord, make a pencil mark 2" from the end and again, make sure the mark wraps around the whole end of the cord so that it's completely visible.



STEP 8

Gather your beading supplies: scissors, beading plate with 2-3 colours of beads, beading needle and thread.



STEP 9

Measure out a piece of thread, about as long as your arm is from the elbow to your fingers, and cut it.

STEP 10

Poke the cut end of your thread through the eye or hole of the threading needle, and gently pull that end until it's even with the other end of the thread. Knot the ends of the thread at least three times.



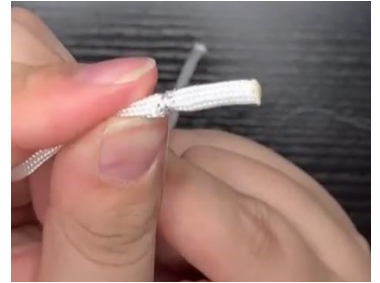
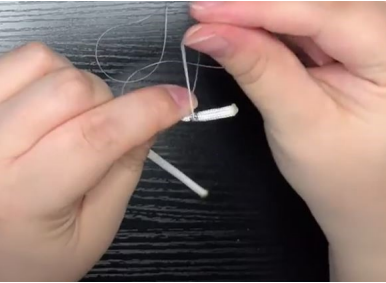
STEP 11

Place the point of your threaded needle on the 1/2 inch pencil mark of your parachute cord, and then carefully push it right through the cord; gently pull the thread through until the knot at the end of the thread reaches the cord.



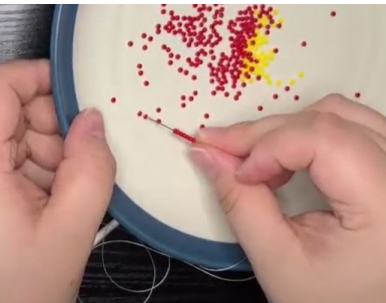
STEP 12

Wrap the end of the thread three times around the pencil line on the cord and then poke the needle right through the middle of the cord through the pencil line and pull the thread through tightly.



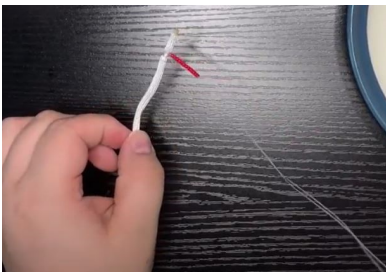
STEP 13

From the beading plate, load your beading needle with beads in one colour (this will be based on your design); put as many beads on your needle as you are comfortable with – go slowly or your beads may fall off the needle and you'll have to start all over.



STEP 14

When your needle is loaded with your beads, push all of them down the thread until they reach the cord. Repeat steps 13 and 14.



STEP 15

With your fingers and thumb on one hand, grab the edge of the cord firmly (where your thread is wrapped); with your other hand, use your thumb to firmly hold your threaded beads in place near the cord.

Make sure the thread is pulled taut so that the beads touch each other; if the beads bunch up, move your thumb a little bit so that the thread relaxes and the beads unbunch.



STEP 16

Slowly begin to wrap the string of beads around the cord, beginning on pencil mark, and moving down the cord so that the beads begin to wrap below each other around the cord – don't pull too tight.



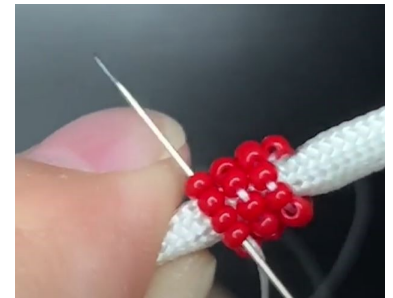
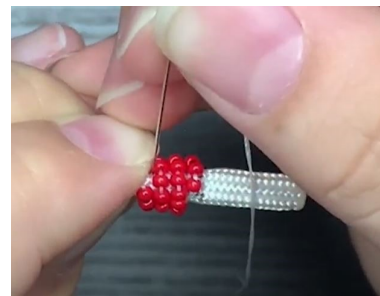
STEP 17

When all of the beads on the thread are wrapped around the cord, use your pointer finger and thumb to hold the last beads in place against the cord.



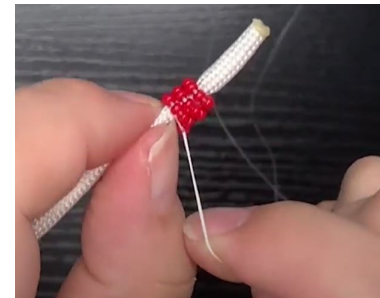
STEP 18

Carefully push the needle tip between the last row of beads, through the middle of the cord, next to the last bead on the thread, and pull the needle and thread through – pull the thread tight.



STEP 19

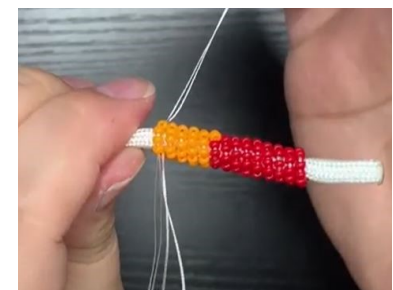
Put your needle through the last few beads that are next to the spot where your thread came through the cord, and pull it tight.



STEP 20 Repeat steps 13 – 19, using more beads on the needle if you want, until the first part of your cord matches the first colour you used for your design. If your design has two colours, you will bead with the first colour until you reach the half-way point of your cord; if you're using three colours, you will bead 1/3 of your cord.



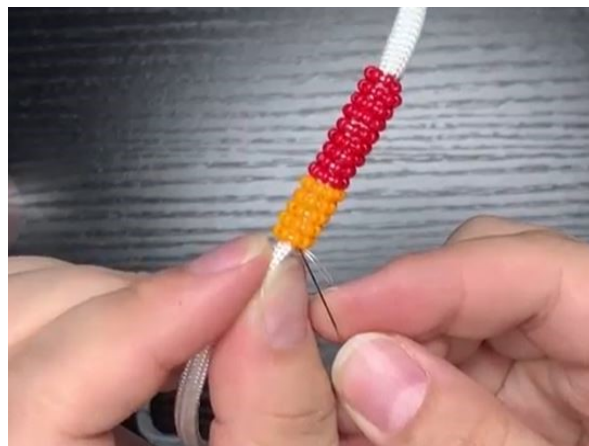
STEP 21 When the first colour is complete, load your beading needle with your second colour of beads and repeat steps 13 – until you reach the pencil mark on the end of your cord (for a two colour design) OR you reach the last 1/3 of your design (for a three colour design).



STEP 22

Replacing your thread: as you bead, your thread will get shorter and shorter. You will need to replace it before it gets too short – here's how to do that:

- ◆ When you finish wrapping the last rows of beads around your cord, take your needle and poke the tip right in front of the last bead on the thread and then try to angle it upwards through the cord towards the last couple of wrapped rows so that the tip comes up between the last two or three rows and pull the needle and thread firmly through the cord.
- ◆ In the place where your needle and thread came through, take your needle tip and poke it through the 3 closest beads and pull the needle and thread firmly through the cord.
- ◆ Now take the tip of your needle and place it just above where it came through the beads but make sure it's pointed it in the **opposite** direction that you just pulled the thread and needle. Angle the needle upwards again and pull the needle and thread firmly through the cord again.
- ◆ Repeat Step b – pulling the needle and thread firmly through the 3 closest beads.
- ◆ Repeat Step c and d.
- ◆ Then, with the thread held firmly in one hand, take the scissors and carefully place the open blades close to the beaded cord, snuggling the scissor blades as close as possible to the cord before snipping the thread.
- ◆ Follow Steps 10 – 11 from above to thread the needle again.
- ◆ With your newly threaded needle, place the tip somewhere in the 2nd last row angle it downward (back towards the bare cord) and then firmly pull the needle and thread through the cord.
- ◆ Take the needle tip and put it through the two beads closest to where you pulled the needle and thread through the cord. You are now ready to continue beading your cord.



STEP 23

When you've reached the pencil mark on the end of your cord with your beads, the beading part is done. Use the techniques from Step 23 to securely tie off the thread. Then thread your needle for the last time, using Steps 10 – 11.

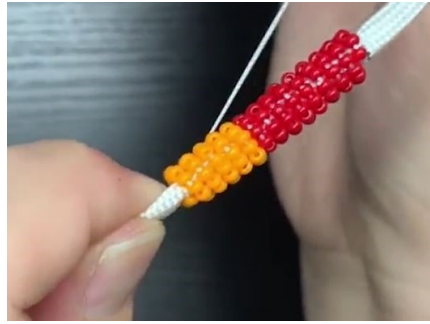
STEP 24

Take the end of the cord with the 2" pencil mark and fold it down so that it's touching the first row of beads and hold it firmly in place with your fingers.



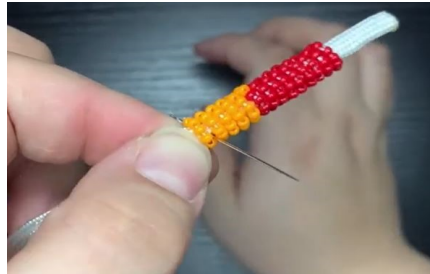
STEP 25

Then take your threaded needle and put the needle tip in the middle of the cord, near the end that's touching the last row of beads and carefully push it through the cord and pulling the needle and thread firmly all the way through.



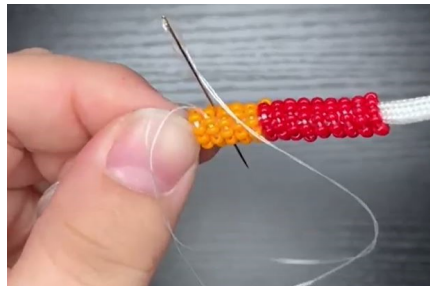
STEP 26

Hold the end tight while you wrap the thread three times around the loop that you just stitched.



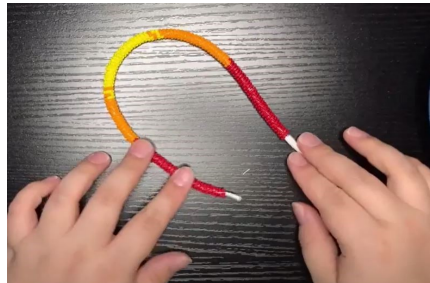
STEP 27

Then take your needle tip and put it in the middle of the cord again, and pull the needle and thread firmly through the cord again.



STEP 28

Next, take the other end of the cord where the 1/2' pencil mark is, and press it against the other end of the cord, making sure the first row of beads on both ends are even with each other.



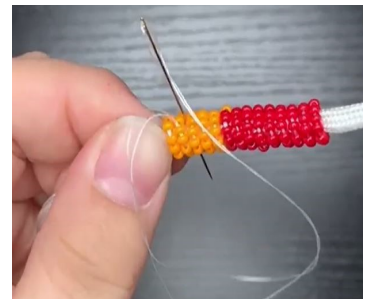
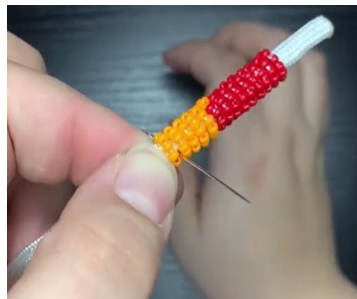
STEP 29

Take your needle tip and put it in middle of the cord and then carefully push it through all three layers of cord. These three layers will be the base of the loop you just sewed as well as the other end of the cord that is pressed up next to that loop – then pull the thread firmly.



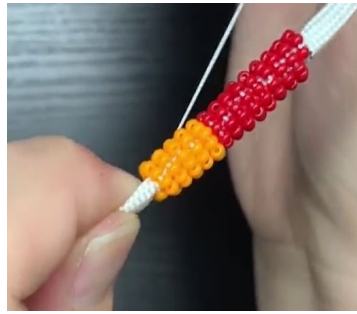
STEP 30

Repeat Steps 26 – 27 two more times, making sure the thread is pulled tightly each time.



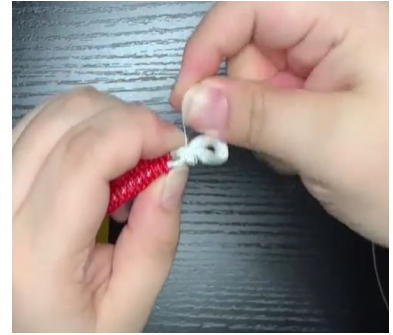
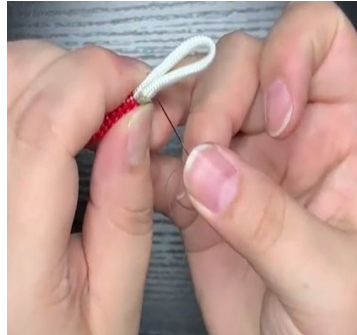
STEP 31

Repeat Step 26, and then wrap the thread loosely around the cord so there is a loose loop of thread.



STEP 32

Bring the needle through the loose thread loop and pull it firmly. Repeat Step 31 one more time but instead of putting the needle through the loose loop once, do it two times before pulling the needle and thread firmly.



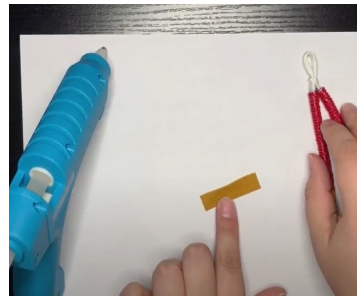
STEP 33

Take the scissors and carefully snip the thread close to the cord.



STEP 34

Get the 1/2" X 2" fabric piece and wrap it around the bottom piece of the beaded cord; use your scissors to trim any overlap from the fabric. You want the two pieces to reach each other without any overlap.



STEP 35

When the fabric piece is trimmed to the right size, apply white glue around the entire base of the cord where you sewed the three layers of cord together.

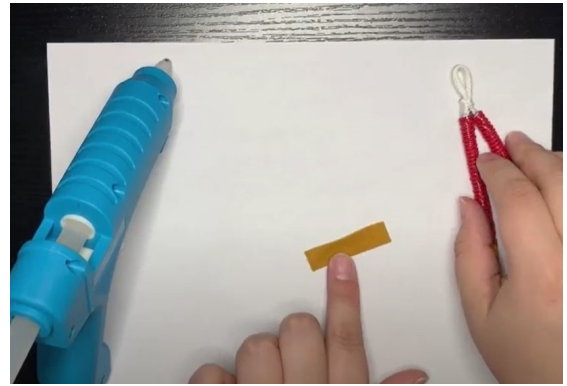


STEP 36

Then take the trimmed piece of fabric, and wrap it around the base of the cord where the glue is; make sure the fabric ends reach each other and the cord isn't visible.

STEP 37

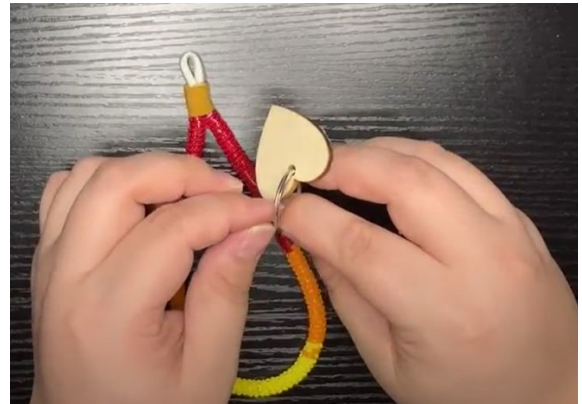
Take the elastic band, and wrap it around the glued-on fabric as many times as needed to keep the fabric band in place. The glue now needs to dry for at least four hours.



STEP 38

Alternative step for if you have a hot glue gun and adult supervision:

- ◆ Ask an adult to plug in the hot glue gun, and then follow Step 35
- ◆ When the glue is hot, and the fabric is trimmed, ask an adult to carefully apply hot glue around the base of the cord where the three layers of cord are sewn together.
- ◆ Then the adult will carefully apply the trimmed fabric on top of the hot glue, making sure the edges reach other, and holding it for 20 seconds, while the glue sets.
- ◆ You can then proceed to Step 39.



STEP 39

When the glue is dried, if you want, you can apply a key chain to the cord loop.

NEXT STEPS

Beading takes time, but the effort is so worthwhile. Now that you know the basic, you are ready to move on to **Activity 2b - Beading a Mini-Medallion**.

Once you have completed your sewing projects, take photos of your completed work and send it to your Dream Broker. The artist would love to see your work, and SaskCulture would love to add it to a showcase of student expression.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Amber Bellegarde is a nêhiyaw/nakoda woman from the Little Black Bear First Nation in Treaty 4 territory, who lives in Saskatoon in Treaty 6 territory. She grew up on her First Nation surrounded by ceremony, and learning to design, bead, and sew thanks to her kôhkom (grandmother), mom, and older sister.

Amber takes enormous pride in being an Auntie as it is a very important role in Indigenous communities and families. She is passionate about sharing her culture and she incorporate personal stories in her creative projects that highlight themes of kinship and First Nations traditional knowledge.



SaskCulture's work and support reaches lands covered by Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10, the traditional lands of the Cree, Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakota and Saulteaux peoples, as well as the homeland of the Métis.

