

CRAFTING WITH AUNTIE AMBER Activity 2b

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

Beading a Mini-Medallion With Auntie Amber

WHAT WE ARE MAKING TODAY

Today Auntie Amber teaches how to create a beaded mini-medallion. A medallion is a circle that looks like a medal – which is where it got its name. While she shows you the steps, Auntie Amber shares interesting information about beadwork including traditional First Nations methods like using porcupine quills.

Cultures all over the world use beading to express their creativity, and for First Nations people, the beadwork can also tell stories which have been passed down through generations. She uses the one needle method of beading while sharing more nêhiyaw/nakoda stories and teachings.



Supplies Needed:

Pre-made medallion pattern, crayons, 4" X 4" piece of stiff felt, beading needle and thread, scissors, size 11 seed beads in 2-3 colours, beading plate, and a glue stick.

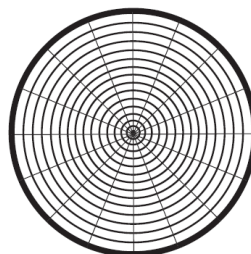
Optional: piece of fabric or thin felt for the back of the medallion and a hot glue gun/glue (use with help of a parent).

STEP 1

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

STEP 2

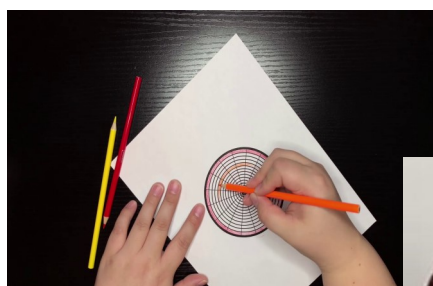
Take the pre-made pattern and decide if you are making a large medallion, which will take more time and beads; or a smaller one that you can finish sooner with less beads.



STEP 3

Pick up to three crayon colours for your medallion design, and then use them to colour the design you want on the pre-made pattern:

- ◆ For a large medallion, colour your design on the whole pattern.
- ◆ For a smaller medallion, count five rings in from the largest one on the pattern, and colour your design how you want, working towards the middle of the pattern.



Colouring large medallion



Cutting out small medallion

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.

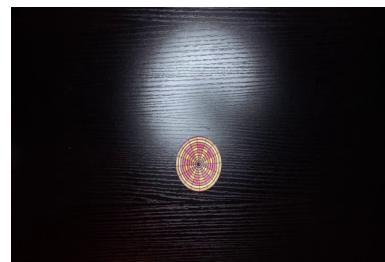


For this and other Getting Creative videos,
visit **SaskCultureInc YouTube Channel** or
SaskCulture.ca



STEP 4

When you're happy with your medallion design, take your scissors and carefully cut it out from the paper.



STEP 5

Then use the glue stick to apply glue to the entire back of the cut-out design and position it on the piece of stiff felt.



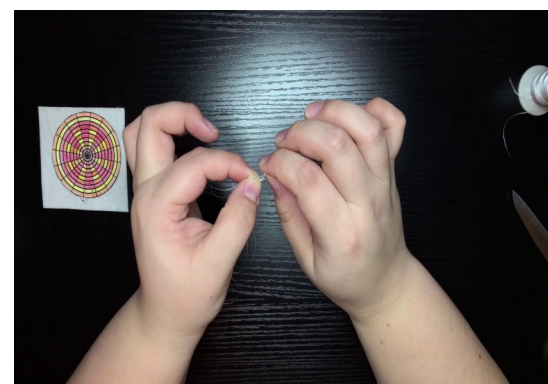
STEP 6

With your scissors, carefully cut a 1/2" square outline around your medallion design.



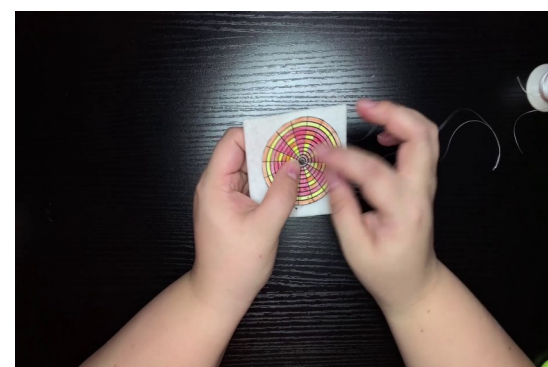
STEP 7

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



STEP 8

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



STEP 9

You will be working on your medallion from the middle to the outer ring of your design.

STEP 10

From the back of your medallion design, place the point of your threaded needle in the centre of the medallion (the bulls-eye) and carefully push it right up through the middle of design until the knotted end reaches the felt.

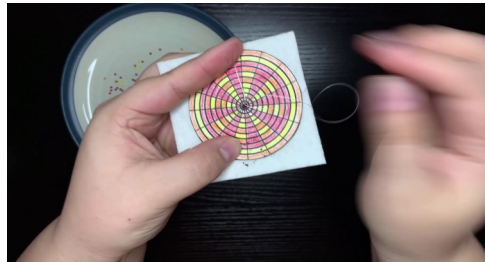
STEP 11

Choose one bead in the colour of your choice for the centre of your medallion; with your needle point, push it through the centre of the bead and then move the bead down the thread until it reaches and touches the middle of your design.



STEP 12

With your centre bead firmly in place, put your needle tip right in front of it and carefully push the needle through to the back of the design, pulling the thread firmly until the bead is anchored.



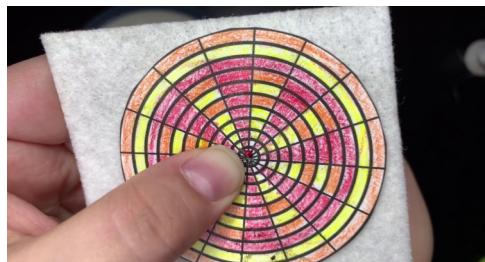
STEP 13

From the back, place the needle tip in the centre of the felt where the bead is located on the front side, and gently poke the needle up so that it comes up as close as possible to your centre bead.



STEP 14

Carefully push the needle tip through the hole in the bead and pull the thread to the side, making sure to keep your needle and thread on the front side of your design.



STEP 15

Following the pattern design you have coloured, start the row next to the centre bead by loading four beads onto your needle and moving them down the thread to the felt and positioning them around the centre bead.



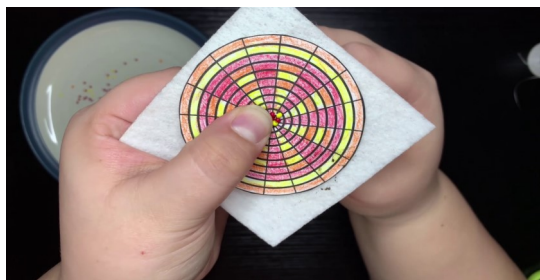
STEP 16

When these beads match the pattern you've designed, put the needle tip in front of the middle bead, and carefully push it through to the back of the felt and pulling the needle and thread completely through.



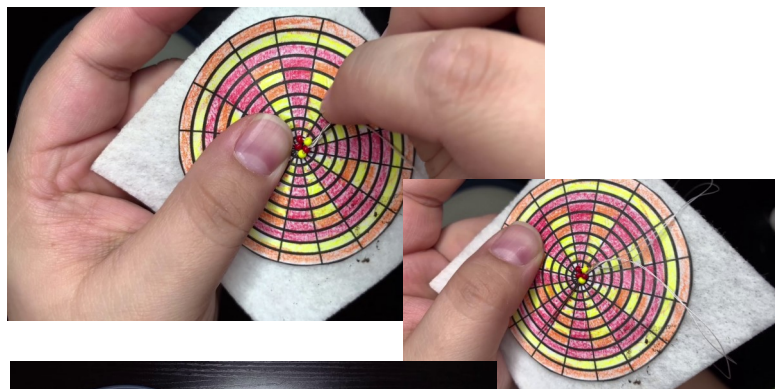
STEP 17

From the backside, carefully push the needle tip up between the last two beads you just applied and pull it up through the front.



STEP 18

Now put your needle through the middle of the last two beads that are next to the spot where your thread came through the cord, and pull the thread tightly to the side again (making sure to keep the needle and thread on the front side of the design).



STEP 19

Put the next few beads on the needle tip, using your design to guide what colours are needed.



STEP 20

When you have the appropriate amount and colour of beads needed to finish off the first row around the centre bead on the needle, move them down the thread towards the middle of the design.



NOTE: the number of beads you will need to complete this first row around the middle bead will depend on your design and also on the beads, since not all beads are exactly the same size. You might need four or you might only need two - it all depends on your design.

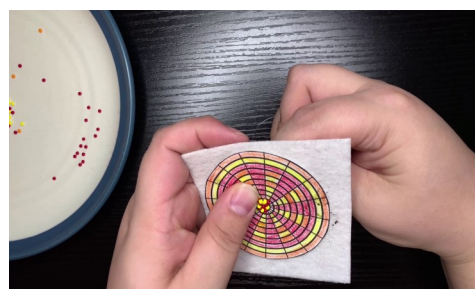
STEP 21

Put your needle tip through the middle of the first bead that you applied and pull firmly until the new beads connect to the first set of beads and encircle the middle bead.



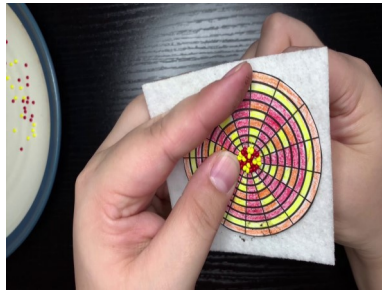
STEP 22

Take your needle tip and put it right next to the last bead that you just applied, and carefully push the needle and thread firmly through the back of the design.



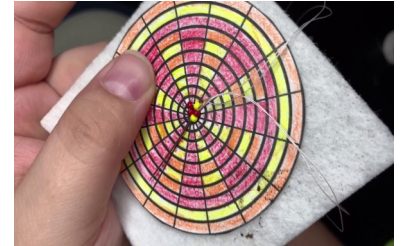
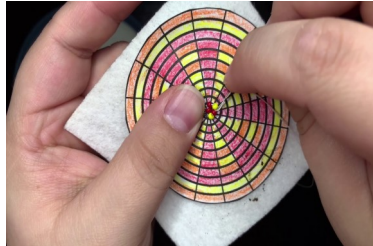
STEP 23

Then from the back, carefully push your needle tip up through the last two beads that were applied, pulling the thread all the way through to the front.



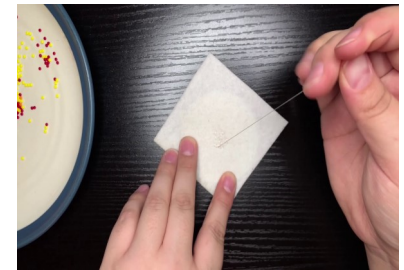
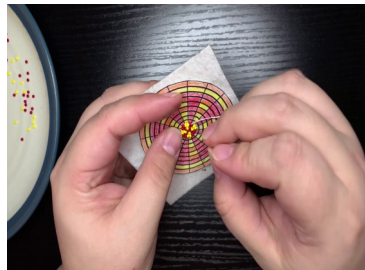
STEP 24

Repeat Step 18 except you will also push the needle through the middle of the very first bead on that row. You have completed the very first row of your medallion.



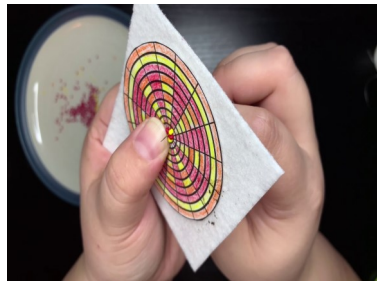
STEP 25

To begin the next row, place the needle tip in front of the bead that you just brought your needle through, and carefully push the needle and thread through to the back of the design, pulling the thread firmly.



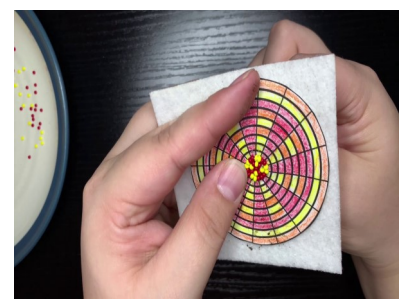
STEP 26

Then working again from the back, put the needle tip so that it will come up to the front of your design, push it through just beside that same bead, and carefully pull the needle and thread firmly through to the front.



STEP 27

Follow Steps 15 – 26, while you bead your way around the medallion, working from the inside out, following the pattern of your design, and always anchoring the last two beads that you're applying to the first bead of that row.



STEP 28

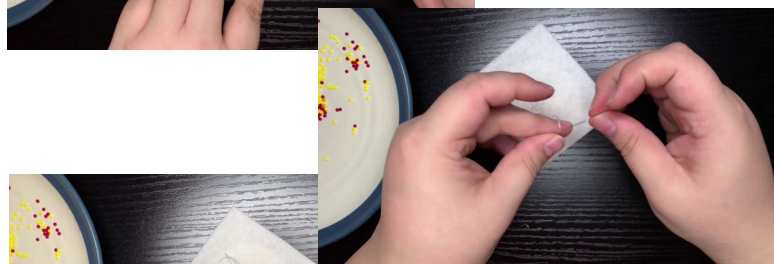
You can use the needle tip to slide your beads to the left or right, to better match the pattern design, but you may not be able to get it exactly matched and that's totally fine – it's what makes every design unique.



STEP 29

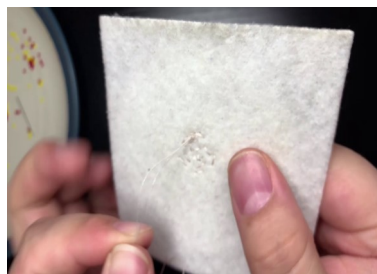
Replacing your thread: as you bead, your thread will get shorter and shorter. You may need to replace it before it gets too short – here's how to do that:

- ◆ After applying and securing the last beads on your row, take your needle and poke the tip right in front of the last bead on the row that you applied, and firmly pull the needle and thread through the felt to the back of your design.
- ◆ Carefully cut the needle off from the thread, and then triple knot the thread as close to the felt as you can; trim the tail, if it's too long.
- ◆ Follow Steps 7 – 8 from above to thread the needle again, and then continue your beading working from the inside out.



STEP 30

When finishing the final row of beads, anchor the last beads to the first one on the last row; then follow tie off your thread on the back of your design with a triple knot.



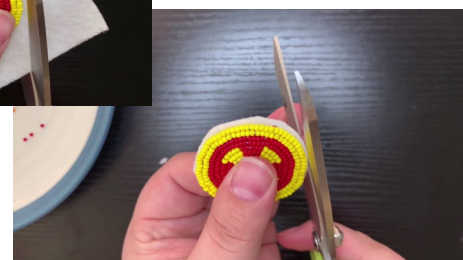
STEP 31

If the paper from your design is showing when you've reached your final row, gently pull the paper out from under the beads.



STEP 32

Take your scissors and carefully and slowly cut around your beadwork, as close to the beads as possible but making sure you don't snip the stitches on the back or your beads won't be secure. If it helps, you can use a pencil to draw a circle around the stitching on the back and then cut it out around that outline to complete your medallion.



STEP 33

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

- ◆ Ask an adult to plug in the hot glue gun.
- ◆ Lay your beaded medallion on the extra piece of soft fabric or felt, and trace the outline of your medallion on it and then carefully cut it out.
- ◆ Then ask the adult to apply hot glue all over the circle you just cut out, and then apply it to the back of your beaded medallion, pressing it firmly for 20 seconds, while the glue sets.
- ◆ Carefully trim any extra fabric or glue strands from around the medallion.



STEP 34

Enjoy your handiwork!

NEXT STEPS

Congratulations on completing your mini-medallion project!

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.



