

# Beads, Beads, Beads...



*Married woman's waist beads*, by Mary Padar Kuojok Athac. South Sudan, Africa. ca 2012. IFAF Collection, Museum of International Folk Art,

Beads are used around the world in a variety of ways and for different reasons. They range in shape and size and can be made from glass, plastic, metal, cloth, shell, stones, even paper! In some communities, beads are used at important moments in life and can represent passages such as birth, becoming an adult, marriage, and death—or power and status. Each cultural tradition has color preferences and its own designs and beading techniques.

Beads are worn just for decorative purposes too—so enjoy making your own paper beads and wearing them!



*AIDS skeleton*, sculpture, Southafrica, Africa. 2013. Gift of Suzy Seriff, Museum of International Folk Art



*Child's Moccasins*, Teton Sioux, Lakota nation. North Dakota, United States. ca. 1930. Gift of Florence Dibell Bartlett, Museum of International Folk Art,

## You'll need :

- drawing paper
- coloring markers
- pencil
- glue stick
- scissors
- ruler
- string &/or pipe cleaners

## Making Paper Beads



## Procedures

1. Use two sheets of drawing paper and create designs with markers.
2. Take the two sheets of paper and cut them into strips measuring about 8" long and 2" wide.
3. The strips can also be cut into rectangles/strips or long triangles. The shapes can be different sizes.
4. Roll the cut out strips/triangles on a pencil. If using triangular shapes, begin rolling with the wider side.
5. The strips/triangles are rolled to the end and glued down.
6. Remove the pencil and let the paper beads dry.
7. Experiment and design your own final product by threading the beads with pipe cleaners or string.
8. Make a pattern by organizing the beads according to design, size and color. You can create a beaded figure, bracelet, necklace or key chain.
9. Finally, is time to wear or display your unique designs.

