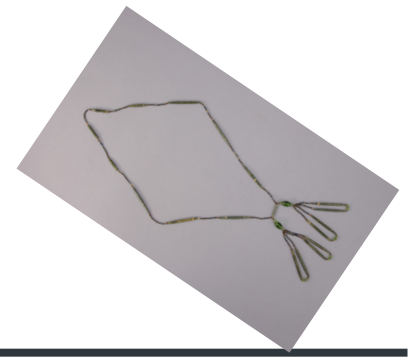




Make a Paper Bead Necklace

Level: Elementary



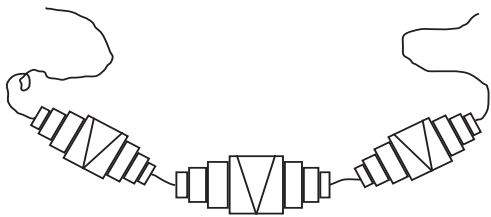
Background

In Alaska 120 years ago, people didn't have a lot of fancy jewelry. People had to be creative and innovative, and if they wanted something special, they often made it from materials they had on hand.

This necklace, on display in the Alaska State Museum Galleries, is from Nome, Alaska. It was made in 1905 out of beads made of scraps of recycled paper.

You can be innovative and creative, too, and make your own necklace from recycled paper.

Why don't you make one as a gift for Mother's Day?



To Make Beads

- If you're using the template, you can skip the first four steps here.
- On a piece of paper, starting at the bottom left of the page, make marks one inch apart all the way up one side of the paper.
- On the right side of the paper, starting 1/2 inch up, make marks 1 inch apart all the way up. The marks on the right side should be halfway in between the marks on the left side.
- Connect the left side marks to the right side marks. You should have a page of triangles.
- Cut the triangles out.

Summary

Create paper beads of rolled recycled paper, similar to the way beads were made in turn-of-the-century Alaska, then string the beads into a necklace or bracelet!

Estimated Time

Approximately 45 minutes.

Materials Needed

- Scrap paper (magazine pages, book pages, plain paper or fancy craft paper), or print and use the template.
- Scissors
- Pencil or pen
- White glue (not a glue stick)
- Ruler
- Toothpicks
- String or yarn
- Optional-markers or crayons for decorating beads, foam block or cardboard for standing them up to dry.



Recycled paper bead necklace,
Alaska State Museum 93-3-2

- Decorate the triangles with markers or crayons (optional).
- Roll the triangle around a toothpick, starting with the wide end of the triangle.
- About one inch from the end of the triangle, squirt a glob of glue.
- Continue rolling the rest of the way to the tip. It's Ok if the glue oozes out-just smear it around the bead. This will help hold the bead together. Your bead will look like a tiny straight croissant.
- Stick the rolled bead on the toothpick upright into a piece of foam or cardboard to dry. When it is dry, use the string or yarn and string it onto a necklace!

Assessment

Do you have beads? Are they stringable into a bracelet or necklace? If Yes- Then Success!!!!

Alaska Arts Standards

In this activity, students will focus on:

Create

- Anchor Standard #3: Produce artistic work.

Explore-What else can you do?

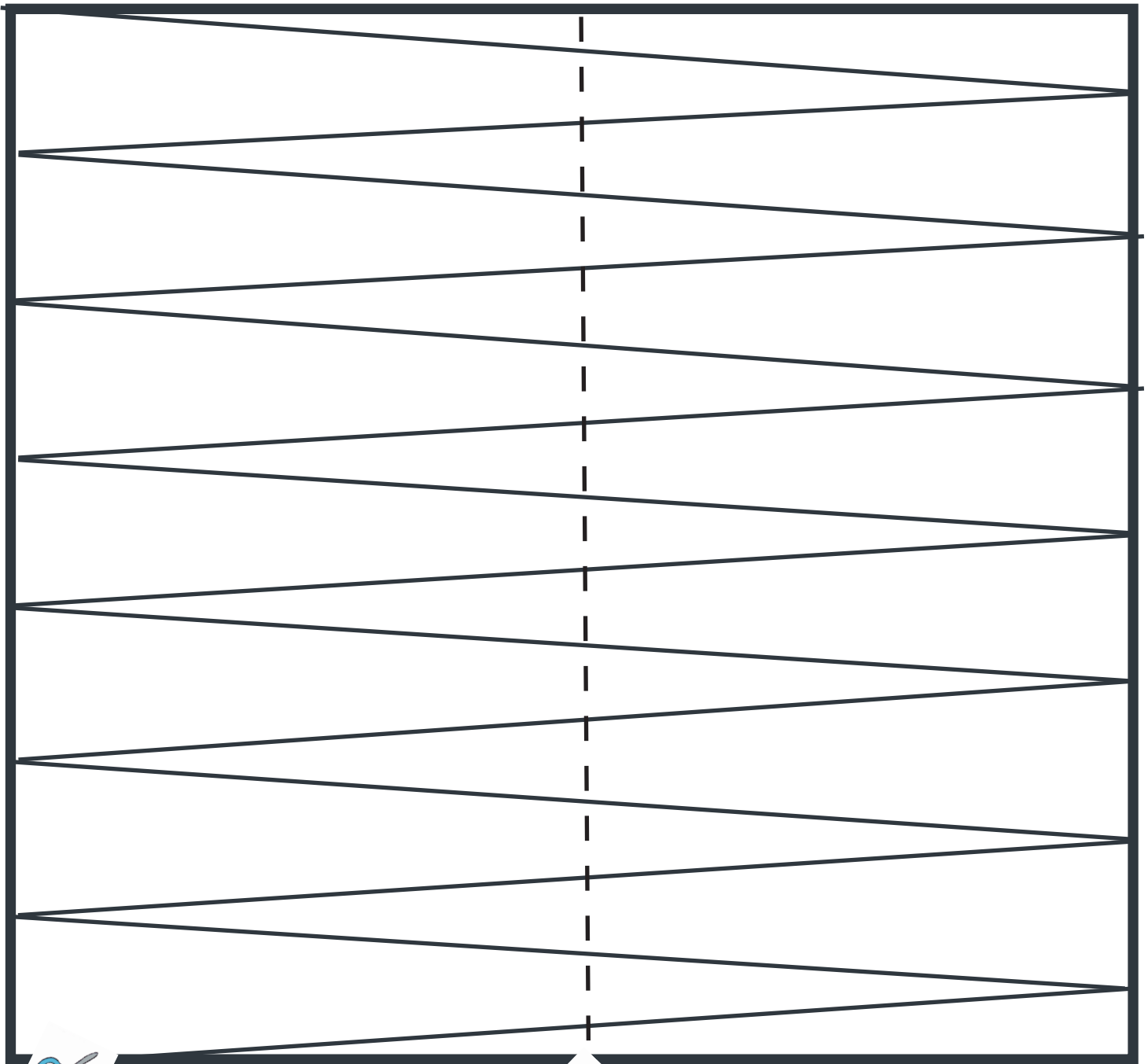
Make different sized beads: What happens if your triangle is wider? Longer?

Make flat beads like the ones in the necklace--Cut the points off of your triangles for flatter beads.

Use different patterned paper, or experiment coloring the paper in different ways.

String some store bought beads in between your paper beads, like the one in the Alaska State Museum.

Do Math: Figure out how many beads you need before you make your necklace: If the beads are 1 inch wide, and you want a 30 inch necklace, how many beads should you make? How many if you make two inch beads?



Cut here



Cut here for flatter beads

Bead Template

Cut full triangles for curved beads.



Cut off tips for flatter beads

