

# Egyptian-inspired Jewelry (art + history)

The purpose of this lesson plan is not to make replicas of Egyptian jewelry but to design jewelry that is dramatic using Egyptian jewelry as a reference. Egyptian jewelry is massive and detailed with bright gold and precious jewels. Most of the jewelry incorporates Egyptian deities in the form of falcons, vultures and cobras, which appear in many forms and combinations. Precious gemstones like red Carnelian, Lapis Lazuli, Turquoise and Quartz were used often, as well as precious metals like gold or a combination of silver and gold.

Study the construction of Egyptian jewelry to see how it is assembled in headpieces, necklaces and bracelets. Many of the designs were constructed to move comfortably on the body. Never has a civilization had so much precious material to work with for decoration. This Egyptian-inspired jewelry is lightweight and inexpensive to make.

## Grade Levels K-12

*Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.*

## Preparation

1. View examples of Egyptian Jewelry, design and ornamentation.  
Recommended resources:  
[Hands On Culture Series: Ancient Egypt \(71836-0000\)](#)  
[Design Source Books: Egyptian Designs \(71300-1004\)](#)  
[Dover Full Color Clip Art CD-ROM: Egyptian Ornaments \(71306-1013\)](#)

## Process for K-5 (pendant)

1. For young children, cut the foamboard into small, random 1-3" pieces. Glue a "stone" (tile or glass) onto the foamboard. Use the modeling paste to cover the edges of the stone to "cage" (or confine) the gem.

2. Use the swabs or the pointed end of a small brush to make a horizontal hole in the foamboard between the two sheets of backing paper.
3. Fill in the edges of the foam with a painting knife and some modeling paste.
4. Paint the jewelry on both sides with gold acrylic paint.
5. Hang using ribbon, cotton warp or lacing.

## Process for 6-12

1. Design a piece of jewelry with more than one component. Consider a pendant with two or more sections, or a bracelet with parts and beads.
2. The foamboard can be bent, scored and cut into any shape or size. Use scissors or a utility knife to shape the foamboard.
3. The foamboard adapts easily to hanging or attaching additional pieces. The end of a small brush or the swabs can be used to make a hole through the foamboard between the two sheets of backing paper. Holes can be made horizontally or at an angle in the corners.
4. Glue jewels onto the foamboard. Apply the modeling paste to cover the edges of the glass "jewels." The modeling paste



## Materials

Bienfang® Foamboard, 20" x 30" x 3/16" (13202-1023); share one 10-sheet package across classroom

Tonic Studios® Plus Scissors, (57079-1008); share four pair across class

Excel® Plastic Handle Utility Knife (57463-1000); need two

Package of 5 Extra Blades (57462-1005)

Richeson® Plastic Painting Knives, 2" Diamond Trowel (03105-1002); share 12 across classroom

Blick® Acrylic Modeling Paste, (00623-1067); share 2-3 quarts across classroom

Weldbond® Universal Adhesive, 8-oz (23819-1105); share two bottles across class

Cotton-tip swabs

Sargent® Metallic Acrylics, 8-oz Gold (00730-9015); share two bottles across classroom

Dynasty® Fine Ruby Synthetic Brushes (05198-0729); share one 72-brush set across classroom

Maysville Cotton Warp, Black (62800-2050) and Myrtle Green (62800-7320); share one 800-yd roll of each across classroom

Beadalon® Elasticity 8mm (60631-1008); share two 82-ft spools across classroom

Assorted Metallized Beads, (60776-1001); share two 1-lb bags across classroom

Sculpey® III Sampler Set (33218-0000); share one 30-color set across classroom

Imitation Leather Cord (61514-1025); share two 25-meter coils across classroom

Ribbon Rainbow, (61498-1009); share two 25-yd packages across classroom

Rexlace®, Black (60921-2100); share two 100-yd spools across classroom

Blick® Mosaic Studio Primary Stained Glass (61139-1003); share two 8-oz bags across classroom

Acrylic Gems (60722-0001); share one 1-lb bag across classroom

Blick® Mosaic Studio Venetian Glass Tiles, 3/8" Cobalt Blue (61134-5184), Emerald (61134-7054) and Deep Red (61134-3714); share one bag each across classroom

Sharpie® Ultra-Fine Point Marker, Black (21315-2003); share four across classroom

## Process for 6-12, continued

can be carved and sanded. If it is applied too thickly, it may crack but this will add to the texture. Use it to fill in the outside edges of the foamboard.

5. Paint the jewelry with gold acrylic paint. Use the Sharpie marker to add details.
6. Assemble the parts of the jewelry with various Sculpey beads. Add metallic beads as spacers.

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## National Standards

Content Standard # 1—Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes

Content Standard # 2—Using knowledge of structures and functions

Content Standard # 3—Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas

Content Standard # 4—Understanding the usual arts in relation to history and cultures