

## **Jeweler**

Want more sparkle in your life? Try making jewelry! It's easy and inexpensive to do. You can design necklaces, bracelets, or earrings for yourself or to give to other people. Try this badge and you'll have created something wonderful to wear in no time.

## **Steps**

1. Get to know the tools of the trade
2. Make jewelry with metal
3. Turn everyday objects into jewelry
4. Create jewelry inspired by another culture
5. Make a sparkling gift

## **Purpose**

**When I've earned this badge, I'll know how to make different kinds of jewelry.**

**“Crafts give us a sense of belonging and connect us with our history.”**

— Helen Keller, American activist

Every step has three choices. Do ONE choice to complete each step. Inspired? Do more.

### **Step 1: Get to know the tools of the trade**

Jewelry is found in almost every culture on the planet. It's sometimes worn simply as decoration, or it can hold great meaning. Before you make jewelry, find out about techniques and materials in one of these ways.

Tools of the trade:

- Beads
- Earring backs or hooks
- Needle file
- Round-nose pliers
- String, thin wire, or strong thread
- Closures

**CHOICES — DO ONE:**

**Visit a jewelry store or jewelry artist.** Ask if you can take a look at supplies and tools. What are the most common tools for making and repairing jewelry?

**OR**

**Visit a museum with an exhibit on jewelry.** How was the jewelry made? Is it all in the same style? Which piece did you like most?

**OR**

**Invite a jewelry maker to talk to your group.** Ask them to bring tools that they use on the job and some cool samples of their work.

FOR MORE FUN: **Birthstones** Throughout history, different cultures have given gemstones meaning. Some Americans give the birthstones as gifts. Check out <http://www.americangemsociety.org/birthstones> for a list of birthstones with pictures.

## **Step 2: Make jewelry with metal**

**Most jewelry uses some sort of metal. Jewelers use various types of pliers to bend the metal in amazing ways. Try one of the projects below using metal.**

CHOICES – DO ONE:

**Make a chain-loop necklace or bracelet.** Using wire cutters, cut pieces of wire. The number and length of the pieces depend on how big you want each loop. Begin by making one loop. Twist the ends together to form a circle. (Pinch the ends together tight with your pliers or file with a needle file so they'll be smooth.) Once you've made one circle, start the second loop of the chain by pulling the wire through the first circle, and again twisting its ends together. When the chain is the length you want, twist the final loop through the first one, or attach a clasp.

**OR**

**Make a pendant with a photo or “caged” stone.** A pendant is a large decoration you hang on a necklace. You can make a photo pendant with a kit, or use a washer from the hardware store. Paint the washer with glue, and then, attach a photo you've cut to match the size of the washer. Coat the whole thing with decoupage glue. When it's dry, ask an adult to help you poke a hole through the photo and the center of the washer. (This is where a chain or cord will be threaded.) For a caged-stone pendant, see directions on the next page.

**OR**

**Make earrings by twisting wire into a shape.** Create the shape of an animal or symbol by shaping wire with your pliers. Or, you could wrap wire around your finger to make a coil-dangle earring. Make sure you leave a little bit of wire to run through an earring hook.

**TIP:** Work out your design on paper before bending wire. Too much bending will harden it.

**More to EXPLORE: Double or triple it up.** Make a piece of jewelry that uses two or three elements. For example, you could use different types of metal or include a variety of beads or stones.

Here are some other ways professional jewelers work with metal. If you want to try any, **find a jewelry expert to help you.**

**Casting:** Shaping metal by melting it and pouring it into molds.

**Engraving:** Decorating metal by carving designs or other markings onto its surface.

**Hammering:** Giving a piece of metal texture by hitting it with a small hammer.

**Soldering:** Using hot metal to join two other metals.

### **Step 3: Turn everyday objects into jewelry**

You don't need expensive gemstones to make great jewelry. Just look around and you'll find what you need to create something unique and stylish.

CHOICES — DO ONE:

**Make a bead bracelet.** Form beads out of papier-mâché or clay. Before they harden, poke a pencil through the middle to create a hole so you can thread them. Once they're dry, make your handmade beads into a bracelet by threading the beads with wire or cord.

**OR**

**Make two necklaces with different kinds of cord.** Although beads and stones are pretty, what you string them on is just as important. Play with materials for the necklace base. Try a variety of things, like wire, string, or ribbon.

**OR**

**Make jewelry from nature.** Go outside and find materials to make a necklace, bracelet, or ring. You could try shells, seeds, nuts, or even small twigs. For some items you might need an adult's help to make holes to string your stuff together.

### **Step 4: Create jewelry inspired by another culture**

Many cultures use jewelry as symbols. In ours, a wedding ring shows you're married. Find out about the jewelry, or the symbols found on the jewelry, of another culture and make your own version. Here are some you could try.

#### **Family Jewelry**

**Do any of your family members like to wear jewelry? Maybe your uncle wears a class ring, or your sister has a favorite necklace that she never takes off. Perhaps you have a bracelet you like to wear on your birthday. It can be fun to ask why people wear their jewelry and what it means to them. You might have some great family jewelry stories right under your nose.**

CHOICES — DO ONE:

**Friendship ring from Ireland.** The **claddagh ring** was created in the 17th century and was named after a village in Ireland. It has two hands holding a heart with a crown, meaning friendship, love, and loyalty. Make a piece of jewelry that you think symbolizes the same things as the claddagh ring. Perhaps a necklace made with three beads: one that reminds you of a friend, one rolled out of a copy of a page of a book you love, and a third made from clay in your school colors.

**OR**

**Native Indian animal jewelry.** Some tribes create jewelry called a totem that honors an animal they respect. Some use a lot of natural materials in their jewelry, like wood or feathers. Try

creating a piece of jewelry that represents an animal you like. Use natural materials if you can.

**OR**

**Name pendant from Egypt.** Ancient Egyptians believed that a **cartouche** had magical powers. It was a piece of jewelry that spelled the wearer's name in symbols called hieroglyphics. They believed as long as people spoke their name, they could not be forgotten. Create a pendant with symbols for each letter of your name and turn it into a necklace.

FOR MORE FUN: Create symbols for the entire alphabet and make pendants for everyone in your family.

### **Step 5: Make a sparkling gift**

Use your new skills to make jewelry to give to someone. You can use everyday objects, model it after jewelry in other cultures, or use interesting metals. Make it symbolize your relationship with the person it's for, or the occasion on which you plan to give it.

### *Life-Saving Jewelry*

**Some jewelry is just meant to be pretty — and some can actually save a life. Medical-alert bracelets and necklaces let doctors and other people know that the wearer has a life-threatening condition. The jewelry can be made out of rubber, metal, or rope and usually has a tag with medical information on it. Some even do double duty and can be plugged into a computer to show doctors all of the wearer's medical files.**

**Common tags are for severe allergies (such as to peanuts or bees), diabetes, and epilepsy.**

CHOICES — DO ONE:

**Make jewelry for a friend.** Think about your friend's favorite things, like animals or music. You might try to include those in your design.

**OR**

**Make jewelry for the girls in your Junior group.** It could be a special event or activity. Try to choose jewelry that everyone can wear. For example, some girls may not have pierced ears.

**OR**

**Make jewelry for a relative.** Family members usually love homemade gifts!

### **More to EXPLORE**

**Make your gift a matching set with earrings, a bracelet, and a necklace.**