

How long does it take to make a wampum belt? Claire Beattie, Ella Deyo, and Stella MacBlane Grade 6

Introduction

The purpose of this project was to see how long it would take to make a wampum belt. Our group's hypothesis was that it would take 3 hours to make a belt that measured 17 inches long and 4 inches wide.

The term wampum (Otgó'ä) is a shortened name for wampumpeag. Wampumpeag beads are dated before AD 1510 and found in North America. Wampumpeag beads were mainly made out of shells called quahog and they used purple and white quahog beads to make wampum belts. The purple beads symbolize serious and political matters while the white beads symbolize peace. After they made these belts the Indigenous people used them for storytelling, important ceremonies, treaties, and sometimes as gifts to the other Nations. Wampum belts are very important to the Nations because the wampum belts tell their history because there is no written history.



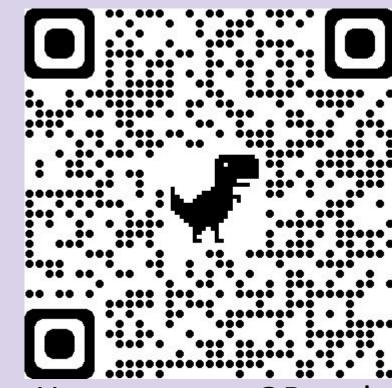
Methods and Materials

Materials:

- -Crafting beads
- -Yarn
- -Cardboard
- -Needles

Methods: Our group made a wampum belt using crafting beads, yarn, cardboard, and a needle. Of course, in the beginning our group was completely clueless on how to make one so we searched the internet and found a YouTube video to show us how to create the wampum belt and we used our own pattern.

Claire Making a Wampum Belt



How to use a QR code:

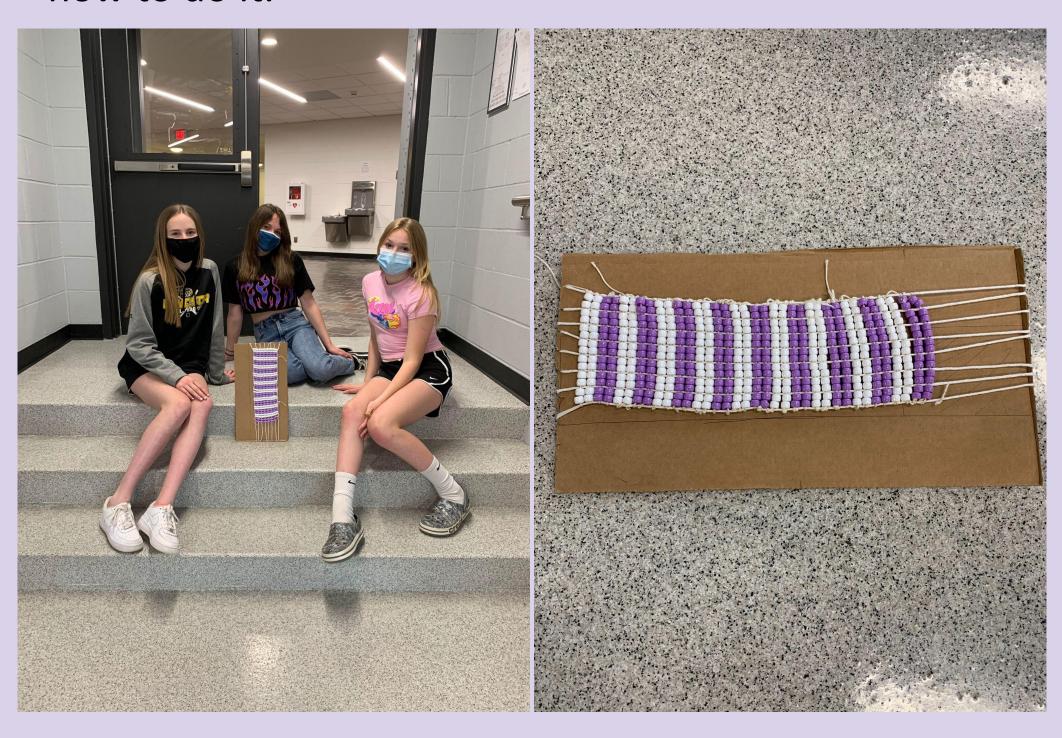
- 1. Go to your camera roll
- 2. Hold your camera to the QR code
- 3. DON'T take a photo
- 4. A link will pop up from Safari
- 5. Click it and watch the video
- 6. Enjoy bestie!!

Results

The result of how long it took to create the wampum belt was 2 hours and 46 minutes for ¾ of the belt that measured 12.75 inches out of 17 inches. If we were to finish the rest of the belt it would have taken 3 hours and 41 minutes.

Discussion

Although our hypothesis was incorrect, if we were to make another the wampum belt we could have had a faster time because we started off not really knowing how to do it.



Acknowledgements: This informal afterschool program is funded by a grant awarded to Binghamton University by the National Science Foundation's Advanced Informal STEM Learning (AISL) Pilot & Feasibility Program.

References

https://www.onondaganation.org/culture/wampum/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucOUS8DeiWs