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Activity Idea

Make a Paper Bead Bracelet

Recommended for Ages 12 - 18

Jewelry made from paper beads is a popular way to recycle magazines, newspapers, old books, mail, and all sorts of paper. Creating inexpensive and beautiful jewelry is as easy as rolling a small piece of paper.

You will need the following materials:

- Paper any color
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Glue
- Nail polish (optional)
- Wooden skewer or thin paint brush
- Yarn or string

Make the Beads:

1. Using a ruler and pencil draw long triangle shapes.
2. Cut your triangles (each triangle will be a paper bead. The wide part of your triangle will determine the length of your bead).
3. Place your paper with the design facing down.
4. Place a wooden skewer or a thin paint brush on the wide end of the paper (the width of the skewer or paint brush will determine the size of the bead opening).
5. Roll an inch towards the pointy edge of the triangle, place a dab of glue to hold the paper in place.
6. Continue rolling the paper making sure that you are rolling the paper tightly. Glue the last inch of the paper to complete your bead.
7. Add some clear or glittery nail polish to your bead to make it shiny and strong. Don't have nail polish? Use glue to give your bead strength. Now make lots of beads for your bracelet.

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Creating Your Bracelet

8. Take your yarn or any string you may have and measure your wrist and add 4 extra inches to the length.
9. Create a loop and string your beads. Save a small bead for the clasp.
10. Tie three knots, one top of each other to secure your last bead.
11. Take the extra length of string and pass it through your clasp bead and loop it around it. Tie a double knot to secure it.

Your bracelet is complete, and you learned something new, enjoy!