

Making Paper Beads

**Depending on the setup of your classroom, it might be easier to have bead making as a station, and rotate the students through until they can do the activity with a fair amount of independence. Emphasize to the kids that it does take patience and practice.*

Purpose: To provide children with the opportunity to make their own paper beads, like the children they learned about in Uganda.

Kindergarten Standards:

Power NYSCCLS ELA Standards (ICSD) - Responding to Literature:

11. Create and/or present a poem, dramatization, artwork, or personal response to a particular author or theme studied in class, with support as needed.

CCSS.Math.Content.K.G.A.2 - Correctly name shapes regardless of their orientations or overall size.

CCSS.Math.Content.K.MD.B.3 - Classify objects into given categories; count the numbers of objects in each category and sort the categories by count.¹

Materials:

- Old magazines, calendars, posters, etc.
- Scissors/paper cutter
- White school glue
- Wooden skewers/toothpicks - you will need one wooden stick (skewer or toothpick) per child.
- String (elastic preferred)
- *Store bought beads (optional)
- Photo Card of Paper Beads
- *Sequencing Cards/VoiceThread of Paper Beads (optional content review)

Set Up:

- Cut a long thin triangle, starting at the top of the magazine page and slowly angling in your scissors (or paper cutter) until you make a small point at the bottom. The top of the triangle should be about an inch wide. Once you have the first triangle cut, you can start cutting your next triangle from the bottom to the top. (You can cut more than one sheet at a time.) **It is easiest if you precut the triangles for the children.*
- For children who need extra support making a pattern on their own, you can draw a pattern on a piece of paper, and help them follow it when they do their stringing.
- If using wooden skewers, cut them into thirds.

Guided Practice:

TEACHER: (Hold up the paper bead photo card.) **Today, we are going to make**

paper beads, just like the kids we learned about in Uganda. Making paper beads takes a lot of patience and practice. The more you make, the easier it gets! Do you remember what shape we need to cut our paper strips?

- Begin by holding up one of the paper triangle strips. Be sure to hold the triangle from the wide end of the strip.
- Take a wooden skewer/toothpick and carefully pinch the paper strip tightly to the skewer as you begin to roll it. (This is usually the hardest part.)
- Be careful to keep the strip centered on the stick as you roll the paper. If it starts to get off track, carefully push it back to the center.
- Continue tightly rolling the paper strip until you have less than an inch of the triangle left.
- Place a small dot of glue on the end of the triangle.
- Roll the remainder of the triangle as you press down firmly.
- Smear the extra glue around the rest of the bead.
- Press the bead between your fingers, and count to ten.
- Hold on to the end of the stick with one hand, and pinch the bead with the other hand. Slide the bead off of the stick. **You may have to gently pull and twist the bead a bit to get it off of the stick if it is a bit stuck.*
- When the bead is released from the stick, place it aside to dry.
- If you want the bead to be extra strong or glossy, you may use a small brush to paint it with more of the white school glue.
- Allow the beads to dry fully. It is best leave the beads for one day before starting to string them.
- Have the children sort the beads into different piles according to various attributes (ex. color, shape, size, etc.).
- Cut a piece of string to the length you need (depending on what you intend to make). **Elastic string is recommended, so jewelry is easy for kids to take on and off.*
- Tie the small stick (you used to roll your bead) onto the end of the string. **This will help to keep the beads from sliding off as you string them.*
- Have the kids create a pattern with the beads on the table. You can work on specific patterns as a class (i.e. AB or ABC), or let the kids create their own. **It often works well to mix in some store bought beads. This allows for more pattern variation and gives the finished necklaces a more polished look.*
- Check to make sure the children have correctly made a pattern, and then have them start stringing their beads.
- Once they are finished, knot the two ends of the string together.
- Cut off the remaining string, and tuck in the loose ends.
- Your jewelry is complete!

**Now that the kids are familiar with how to make the beads, allow them to be creative and experiment with rolling strips of different sizes and shapes. The beads can be used to make earrings, decorate picture frames, make sculptures, etc. The possibilities are endless!*