



# Wampum Inspired Bead Art

Note: An Indigenous Community member must be invited into the learning environment to deliver beadwork teachings.

## Instructions:

1. On 15 column & 5 row square chart, have students create a Wampum inspired design describing who they are.
2. Start by having students make their own loom; on a pre-cut (13 in x 3.5 in) piece of cardboard have students cut 6 slits on each end.
3. Wrap each slit with thread, taping the thread down with tape at the back.
4. Using another piece of thread and a plastic needle, have students tie their needle thread to the loom thread.
5. On the needle thread, have students load their pony beads according to the design that they previously made. Each bead should settle in between the loom thread.
6. To secure the beads, slide the needle around the end of the loom thread and back through the beads. This will keep the beads in place.
7. Repeat the pattern until all the columns are filled according to the students' design.
8. When students are finished, take the taped thread on the back of the loom, and tie it off. This will complete the students' art.

## Materials Needed:

- Cardboard Pieces (pre-cut into 13in x 3.5in)
- Thread
- Variety of Pony Beads
- Tape
- Design Paper (15 columns and 5 rows)
- Markers
- Plastic Needles
- Scissors

## Bead Pattern:

Columns 1-5: A bead design that represents your cultural background (this can be flags, or a pattern that demonstrates your background)

Columns 6-10: A bead design that represents factors of influence in your life (friends, family, tv shows, music, etc.)

Columns 11-15: A bead design that represents your aspirations.

## After Activity:

- If there is enough time for students to share their Wampum-inspired designs, make small groups for students to share with their seat neighbours.
- If students require more time, bring a plastic box for students to store their designs safely.