

# Egyptian Scarab Pendants

Developed with  
Dan Schwarten, Art Specialist  
Grades 3-6



Necklace created by  
Dan Schwarten

## OBJECTIVES

*Students will...*

- Create a pendant from clay and assemble as part of a beaded necklace.
- Improve understanding of the culture and art forms of ancient Egypt.
- Recognize jewelry as an art form that is found throughout the world and history.

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## INSTRUCTIONS: DAY 1

### Step 1:

Introduce students to Egyptian images, pointing to the significance of the scarab as a decorative element and symbol of power and longevity. Have students examine images of scarab beetles and actual specimens, if available. Answer questions and discuss the dung beetle as a source for the symbol.

### Step 2:

Give students a block of clay and instruct them to divide it in half. Students will set one half aside to be used later to form beads.

### Step 3:

Divide remaining clay in half. Roll one half into a ball. Students should flatten the ball, and then fold it in half to create a semicircle. When completed it should be about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick (to prevent breaking). This will become the outstretched wings.

### Step 4:

Take the second half of remaining clay and pinch off a small part to be used for the legs and eyes, set aside. Take the remaining portion and roll into an oval shape and flatten the bottom, to form the body.

### Step 5:

Place the body onto the wings and firmly attach.

### Step 6:

Using a pencil or tools, decorate the wings in a radial pattern. Have students segment the body by inscribing lines at the halfway point and the upper quarter. Vertical lines on the abdomen section represent the wing covering.

### Step 7:

Take the pinched off clay and roll into thin coils to be used as legs, two pairs facing the rear and the front pair reaching toward the head.

### Step 8:

Make eyes by taking two small balls of clay and affixing them to the head.

### Step 9:

Punch two holes through the corners of the wings to attach the strings to the pendant.

### Step 10:

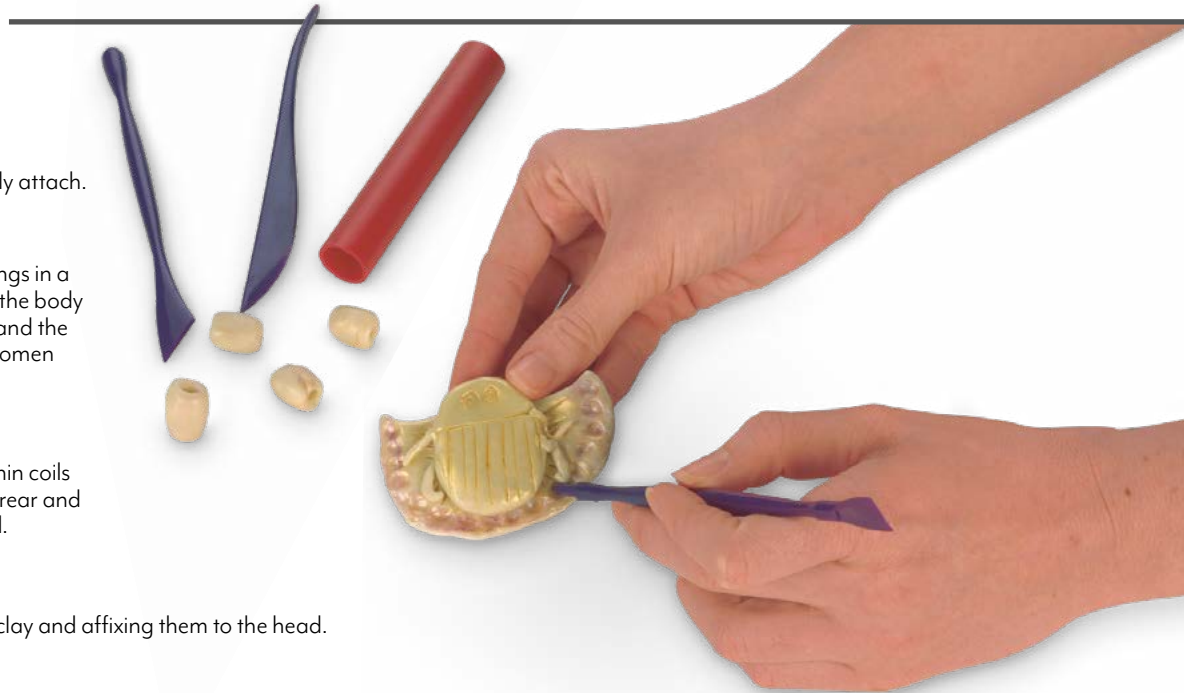
If creating a sun disk above the head, students should take a part of the clay designated for beads and roll into a ball. Flatten the ball until it is slightly larger than the jewel that will be attached. Secure disk to the wings in front of the head.

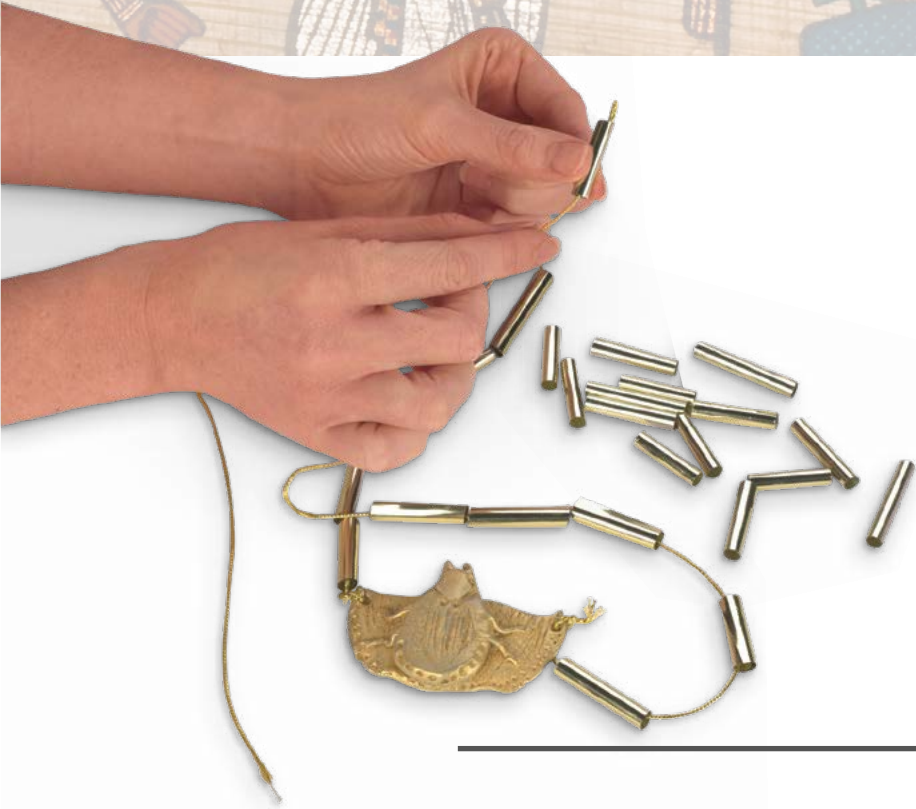
### Step 11:

Shape remaining clay into beads. Be sure to punch a hole through each bead.

### Step 12:

The scarabs and beads are baked. Scarabs are sprayed with gold spray paint before the next class. Pearl Ex Pigments can be used as an optional decorating technique.





## INSTRUCTIONS: DAY 2

### Step 1:

Students will get their scarabs back and begin assembling their necklaces.

### Step 2:

Students will have the clay beads they made and will add gold tube beads to complement the clay beads. The teacher has the choice of creating the tube beads or students can do so, which will take an extra class period.

### Step 3:

The beads are then strung onto strings tied to the edges of the pendant.

## CREATING TUBE BEADS:

### Step 1:

The tube beads are created by cutting the gold wrapping paper into strips as long as the straws and wide enough to wrap the straws at least once.

### Step 2:

Apply glue stick or adhesive spray to the gold paper and then roll the paper around the straw.

### Step 3:

Cut the straws into 1" lengths.

### Step 4:

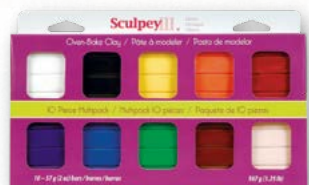
The beads are then strung onto strings tied to the edges of the pendant.



## EVALUATION:

Evaluate projects by observing student interaction as well as looking at final craftsmanship. Did the students use correct vocabulary to discuss their project? Did students assemble their necklace with care? Did students enjoy the project and make connections with jewelry fashions of today and ancient Egyptian examples?





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9719133



9719134



9723620

## MATERIALS

- Sculpey® Polymer Clay, 6-lb. Classroom Set — 9725936
- Sculpey® Classic Multi-Pack, 2-oz. Bars (optional) — 9719130
- Sculpey® Bright Multi-Pack, 2-oz. Bars (optional) — 9719133
- Sculpey® Naturals Multi-Pack, 2-oz. Bars (optional) — 9719134
- Bamboo skewers, pencils, or toothpicks — 9706480
- Drinking straws — 9723620
- Gold reflective wrapping paper — 9709689(B)
- Acrylic jewels (optional) — 9724966

- Scissors — 9726127
- Glue sticks or spray adhesives — SB41163
- Gold spray paint — 9731728(B)
- Pearl Ex pigments (optional) — 9725759
- Yarn, carpet warp, or beading wire — 9710350, 9710352
- Sculpey® Modeling Tools — 9730685
- Images of scarabs and Egyptian jewelry/art

Note: Occasionally certain components may be unavailable. Nasco reserves the right to substitute merchandise of equal or greater value than those listed.

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