



Crafts

Wampum weaving

(From Ridgetop farm & garden)



Wampum was used primarily by Indigenous peoples of the Eastern Woodlands for ornamental, ceremonial, diplomatic and commercial purposes. Belts made of wampum were used to mark agreements between peoples.

Wampum — which comes from a Narragansett (Algonquian language family) word meaning a string of white shell beads — are tubular beads manufactured from Atlantic coast seashells. While a variety of shells may be used, most often the white shells are formed from the whelk shell and the purple from the quahog clam shell.



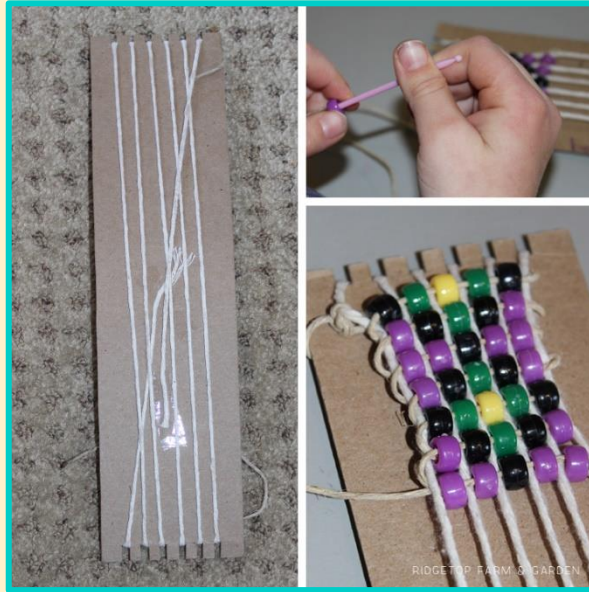
Supplies:

- Thin string
- Stiff Cardboard (used for weaving your design (used like a loom)
- Pony beads based on you design idea or preference
- A plastic needle, if possible, (sell at craft stores or large regular

1) First, make 3 30 x 5 rectangles on graph paper. Then, fill each rectangle in with a design possibility for your wampum belt. Each square represented one bead.



2) cut a 3" x 11.5" loom out of stiff cardboard. This photo is the back of the loom once we wrapped it with string. Both ends are taped to the loom. Begin weaving your beads (tips below the photo).



**Top Right: This plastic kids needle barely fit through the beads so you may need to use a metal needle based on the size of your beads.*

** Bottom right – note how we weave one line of beads to the next line (over/under) to connect and hold the beads lines together. Also note the notches on the cardboard to hold the longer lines of twine. (don't forget to tape the ends down or they will not remain tight).*



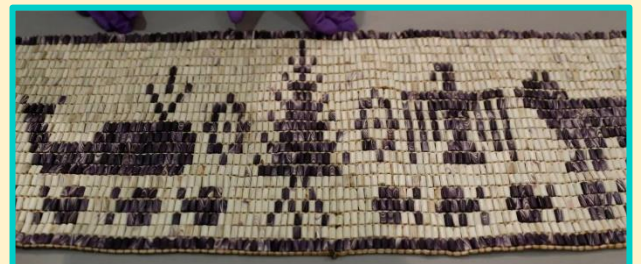
Other examples of wampum from the New England Indian nations



Uncas Wampum Collar (c. 1638)
Mohegan Sachem Uncas
(1598-1683)



How wampum was made
by our parent tribes



Wampum belt of the Wampanoag nation