



SHELL PENDANTS

The empty shells you find on the beach used to be the homes of sea animals like snails, clams, and scallops. These types of animals make their own shells which protect their soft body parts from drying out or being eaten.

Shells are used for jewelry all over the world. Sometimes you can find an empty shell on the beach that already has a hole in it. Then you can simply put it on a piece of string to make a necklace. Another way to make a shell pendant is to make a salt dough mixture and press shells into the dough. Salt dough can be used for many other craft projects as well.



Materials:

- Plastic tablecloth
- Large bowl & a big spoon
- Salt dough: 2 cups flour, 1 cup salt, 1 cup water
- Shells
- Pencil
- String, cord or yarn
- Optional: food coloring to color the dough
- Optional: acrylic paint to paint the pendant after it dries



Directions:

1. In a large bowl, mix two cups flour and one cup salt.
2. Slowly mix in water, until you have a Play-doh like consistency. You can add more flour if it is sticky or more water if it is too dry.
3. Knead the dough for about five minutes until it is smooth.
4. To color the dough, add drops of food coloring and knead until you have a color you like.
5. Form the dough into 1-2 inch balls.
6. Using your thumb press in the middle of the ball to flatten the dough .
7. Place the shell into the dough and press it in. If any cracks appear, add a small amount of water.
8. Use the pencil to make a small hole near the top of the pendant, but not too close to the edge or it might break when it dries.
9. Let the pendants dry by either setting them out in the sun for several hours or placing it an oven at 200°F. If you use an oven, turn the pendants every 10 minutes and bake until fully dry.
10. Put a string through the hole and you are ready to wear your shell pendant!