

Personal Adornment



Koranic Amulet (xirsi), from Africa, 18th Century made of silver, agate, amber, and ivory

What are personal adornments?

Personal adornments are things we wear like hats, rings, or other objects to decorate our body. Sometimes these adornments are used to make a person more attractive. Other times, these adornments are used to identify who a person is or to show that a person is special in some way. Adornments can tell you how important a person is, what kind of job they do, where they live, or how they want to be known. Personal adornments will often have bright colors and patterns, use special materials, or are very valuable.

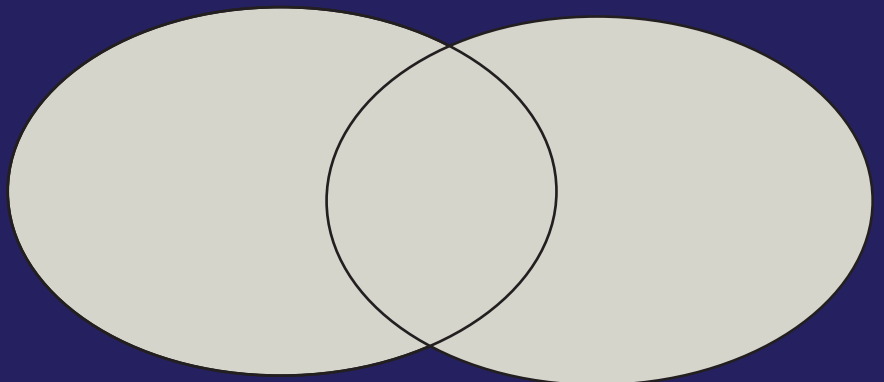


Ivory pendant, Mboma peoples, 19th century Royal Museum For Central Africa

WORDS TO KNOW!

- adornment** an object that decorates you, like jewelry, hats, or other accessories
- pattern** decorative design with repeated elements
- medallion** a large, pendant that hangs on a chain or string, like a medal
- recycle** to change waste into usable material
- transform** to change in form, appearance, or structure
- repurpose** to change something so it can be used for a different purpose.

People in different cultures from all around the world wear personal adornments and they all have their own unique style! Use the Venn Diagram below to compare the *African Koranic Amulet* to the *Ivory pendant*.



Create your own personal adornment!

You can make your own personal adornment by repurposing materials. Artist El Anatsui, image below, creates art with materials that people throw away. Instead of recycling the materials, El Anatsui says that he transforms them into a piece of art! You can do the same thing to create a personal adornment for yourself.

Step 1 Go to the Repurpose Project on 519 S Main st. (www.repurposeproject.org) to get your materials. We have brought the materials to you today!

Step 2 Gather your materials! You will need one 42 inch length of yarn, one yarn needle, 1 large lid, and 8 other pieces from the provided options (small lids, bamboo, napkins rings etc.).

Step 3 Thread your yarn through the yarn needle. We did this step for you today. Use the needle to thread on your 8 smaller materials. We have predrilled holes into the lids using a large drill bit.

Step 4 Now, decorate your 1 large lid with bright oil pastels. This will be the medallion of your personal adornment and placed in the center. We prepared these lids with a primer and black acrylic paint.

Step 5 Cut 6 inches off of the yarn with the 8 threaded pieces. Leave the needle threaded into the yarn. Pull the 6 inch yarn through your medallion. Remove the needle. Tie the ends of the medallion yarn around the yarn of your adornment in the center.

Step 6 Position all of the caps in the center of the yarn. Remove the needle. Then, tie the ends of the yarn together with knot. Wear your completed personal adornment around your neck!



Old Man's Cloth was made in 2003 by El Anatsui, who was born in Ghana. It is made from bottle top disks and strips from bottle wrappers tied together with wire..

To Do At Home:

You can seal the oil pastels onto your medallion by spraying a layer of non-aerosol hair spray on to the surface. Spray a total of 3 layers, allowing the hair spray to dry in between each coat.