

PPLD Young Adult Services Tutorial: Mythological Amulets

Description:

As part of the mythology theme for Summer Adventure, learn how to make a Rowan Berry Brooch! Rowan berries were used in Scottish folklore to ward off evil.

Supplies:

1. Red or pink beads (about 20 total)
2. 3 feet of thin wire, such as jewelry wire
3. Scissors to cut the wire
4. A safety pin or pinback
5. Glue (such as superglue or hot glue)
6. Optional: needlenose pliers to adjust wires. (You can do this just fine with your fingers as well if you don't have a pair of pliers!)

Link to Video Tutorial:

<https://youtu.be/1TNkoJ502Zw>



Instructions:

1. Create the stem of the brooch. Take one end of the wire and fold it up at the 3 inch mark.
2. Continue folding the wire over itself, squeezing it together as you fold, until the whole length of wire is one 3-inch bundle:



3. Grab one loose strand of wire from the bundle and wrap it around the base, twisting tightly. This creates the "stem" of the brooch.



4. Now fan out the wires above the stem so that you have a bunch of loops next to each other.

5. Squeeze each loop really tight together and then make little zigzag folds back and forth with each loop to mimic a branch.



6. Lay out your beads next to your brooch. It should look like this:



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Instructions, cont.:

7. Start stringing some beads onto the first “branch” of the brooch. Try to fit 3-4 beads onto it.



8. Make a fold at the top of the “branch” after you finish stringing beads onto it so that the beads cannot fall off.



9. Make some more folds in the branch so that the beads are arranged the way you want them to be. Here’s an example of how that might look:



You can also make folds like this after putting each individual bead on instead of adjusting at the end—whatever works best for you!

10. Repeat with the other branches until all have beads on them:



11. Arrange the branches on top of each other until it looks the way you want it to.
12. To make it into a brooch or pin, glue a safety pin or pinback to the stem of the brooch. You can use superglue, hot glue, or whatever adhesive you have on hand.
13. Let the glue dry.
14. Wear and enjoy! You could also easily make this into a keychain or a hair clip instead by attaching a keyring or gluing to a clip or bobby pin. Customize it to be whatever you want it to be!

