



PRESENTS

KIDSEUM AT HOME

*Creative fun and learning for the entire family,
all from the comfort of home!*

INTRODUCTIONS
To
MIAO
SILVER
AND
TEXTILES

INSPIRED BY
THE GALLERY

MIAO:
MASTERS
OF SILVER



1

HAIR PIN ADORNMENTS

AGES

7-10 years old

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Beginner

DESCRIPTION

For this project we will be making hair pins that are inspired by the Miao's silver hair pins. This lesson will give us a better understanding of the skill and patience it takes to make such delicate pieces.

MATERIALS

Alligator Clip / Snap Clip	Chipboard / Cereal Box*	Pipe Cleaners
Hot Glue Gun	Scissors	Pencil / Eraser
Gems* / Flowers*	Pliers*	Metallic Paint* / Brushes*

Materials with an () are optional, use only if available.*

Background

The women of the Miao culture are known for **flaunting** lots of silver accessories, such as: headdresses, bracelets, necklaces and even hair pins. The silver they wear is used to show their **status** and **wealth**. This is especially true for the wife of a silversmith, who wears his pieces proudly to display her husband's **talent**. This is done to gain more customers during the Sister Festival, which is when young men **court** women with silver pieces.

Silver jewelry is especially important during courting, where men gift silver pieces to their future wife, to **demonstrate** their wealth and love. The silver pieces later form part of the **dowry**, or payment that the family of the potential husband must pay for the privilege to marry his future bride. Although hair pins tend to be small, they possess many details and are specially cared for by the women that own them. Since it is **custom** for daughters to **inherit** their mother's silver, each woman cares for their silver pieces and makes sure they are handed down in **pristine** condition. This can be seen in the pieces in our Miao Silver collection.

Helpful tips

- Pliers can be used to curl, twist, and cut the pipe cleaners with ease.
- An alligator clip with a long flat edge is preferable.
- Use caution and ask an adult for assistance when using a hot glue gun and scissors.



Procedure

1. Using your pencil, draw a simple medium sized shape. This will be the base of your clip.
Examples: Flower, Heart, Star, etc.
2. Cut the shape out using your scissors.
3. Cut the pipe cleaners into smaller pieces and twist or curl them as desired for a design element.
4. Place your pieces on your chipboard cut-out to decide how you want to adhere them.
5. Glue them to the chipboard using a hot glue gun.
6. OPTIONAL: Once you are done you can take a brush and metallic paint to cover your piece. Leave it to dry before moving on. You can also choose to attach gems and petals with a hot glue.
7. Once your piece is finished, get an alligator or snap clip and hot glue the base of your piece to the clip.
8. Try it on and see how it looks!



Key Vocabulary

<p>Flaunt</p> <p>To display ostentatiously; show off.</p> <p>“Miao women love to flaunt all their silver for festivals.”</p>	<p>Status</p> <p>A person’s position or rank in relation to others or in the view of others.</p> <p>“Miao women like to show their status through their attire.”</p>	<p>Wealth</p> <p>A large quantity of money or property or the state of having such; affluence.</p> <p>“Wearing lots of silver is a symbol of wealth to the Miao people.”</p>
<p>Talent</p> <p>A natural ability or aptitude.</p> <p>“The silversmith was very talented; therefore, everyone loved his work.”</p>	<p>Court</p> <p>To seek the favor or affections of.</p> <p>“The man tried to court her with roses, chocolates and jewelry.”</p>	<p>Demonstrate</p> <p>To explain or describe, especially by modeling or using many examples.</p> <p>“He demonstrated his love by giving her gifts and listening to her concerns.”</p>
<p>Dowry</p> <p>The money or other property brought by a woman to her husband at marriage.</p> <p>“His silver gifts became part of the dowry.”</p>	<p>Custom</p> <p>An accepted or traditional practice, either of an individual or a social group.</p> <p>“Paying a dowry is customary in many countries.”</p>	<p>Inherit</p> <p>To receive money, property or the like through a will made by, or legal succession to, a person who has died; be heir to.</p> <p>“When a Miao woman is ready to marry, she will inherit all of her mother’s silver.”</p>
<p>Pristine</p> <p>Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of the earliest period of original condition.</p> <p>“Miao women make sure to keep their silver in pristine condition.”</p>	<p>Source: The Art of Silver Jewellery: Minorities of China, the Golden Triangle, Mongolia and Tibet: the René Van Der Star Collection, by René van der. Star et al.. Skira, 2006, pp 9-26. Clothings and Ornaments of China’s Miao People, by The Cultural Palace of Nationalities, Beijing, 1985, pp 64.</p>	

2

MIAO HEAD DRESS

AGES

7-10 years old

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Beginner

DESCRIPTION

For this project we will be making headdresses that are inspired by the silver headdresses in the Bowers Museum's upcoming Miao exhibit.

MATERIALS

Chipboard/ Cereal Box*	Pencil / Eraser	Marker
Silver/ Grey(white+black) Paint	Brushes	Plate/Palette*
Scissors	Glue	Yarn
Water Tub / Napkin	Ruler/ Measuring Tape*	

Materials with an (*) are optional, use only if available.

Background

The People's Republic of China is a vast region that is home to at least 56 groups of diverse cultures. The largest and most **predominant** is the Han. The Han make up approximately 92% of the entire population of China. The remaining 8% of the **population** is made up of 55 different minority groups. Each group has its own way of living and clothing style, with **garments** that are oftentimes **indicative** of their culture.

Within these cultures is a group of people called the Miao. The Miao people live in Southwest China but over time their people have **dispersed** throughout other areas of Asia. However, someone from Miao can easily be identified due to their traditional clothing style. The Miao people adorn themselves with lovely textiles and silver **accessories**. One type of accessory is called a **headdress**. A Miao headdress is typically worn by women and children during festivals. These headdresses are very heavy because they contain several pieces of silver, which are all **intricate** and highly detailed. Since festivals are fun and allow people to forget about reality for a moment, many are **encouraged** to dress in their best clothing with silver pieces sometimes weighing up to 33 lbs. This not only makes the wearer look **spectacular** but is also a symbol of their wealth. Examples of these can be found in the Bowers' Miao collection which will open within the Bowers' Ancient Arts of China exhibit in late summer, 2020.

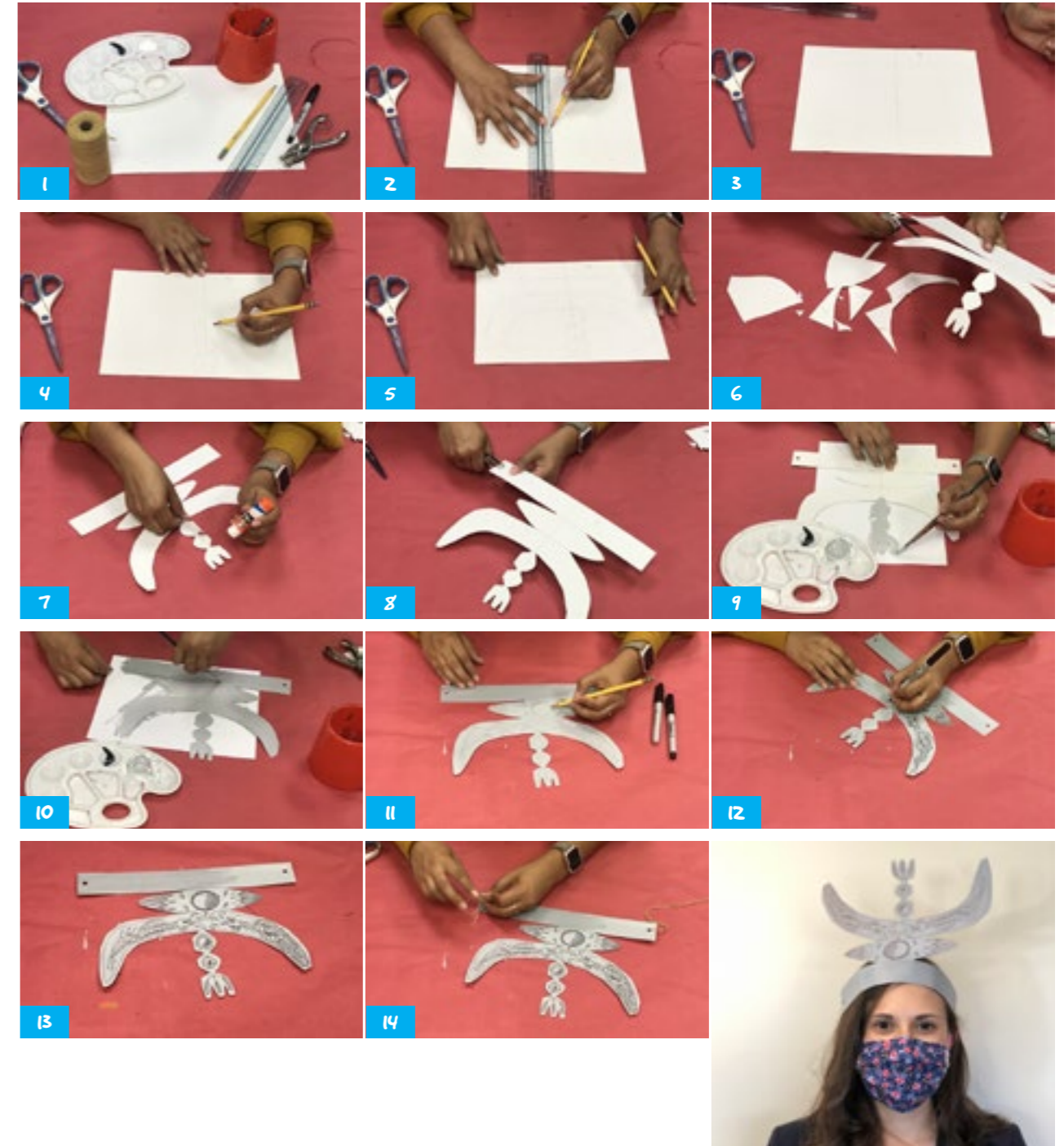
Fun Facts

- Silver jewelry is very important in showing status and culture.
- The "Sister Festival" is one of many festivals held by the Miao people and is similar to Valentine's Day.
- The Sister Festival takes place on March 15 during the Lunar Calendar and on April 7 during the Solar Calendar.



Procedure

1. Place the ruler over the bottom edge of the chipboard and trace a parallel line alongside it with a pencil.
2. Move the ruler beside the chipboard and mark the halfway point. (roughly 5-5.5 inches).
3. From that point, mark 3 inches to each side.
4. Repeat this on the opposite side of the chipboard.
5. Turn the ruler vertically and connect each dot to its opposite.
6. This should make 4 sections on the chipboard plus a line across the bottom.
7. Using the center line, draw shapes along one side.
8. Repeat these shapes on the opposite side to make them symmetrical.
9. When you are satisfied with the shapes, take a marker, and outline them.
10. Use scissors to cut along the lines to remove any excess pieces.
11. Measure the band section to your head to make sure it fits, and then hole punch holes on the edges.
12. Place your chipboard over a piece of paper and paint over the entire chipboard.
13. Leave it to dry for 10 minutes.
14. Once dry, take a black marker and draw in any animals or shapes you would like. You can use our exhibit pieces as inspiration.
15. After you have finished, add short pieces of yarn to the holes on the band to tie it in place.



Key Vocabulary

<p>Predominant Being the most common, frequent, or prominent; prevailing. “The Han is the most predominant group in China.”</p>	<p>Population The total number of people inhabiting a country, city, area, or the like. “China has a large population of people.”</p>	<p>Garment Any piece of clothing. “The Miao people have many garment styles that are unique to their culture.”</p>
<p>Indicative Suggesting; indicating. “Wearing certain attire is indicative of the Miao culture.”</p>	<p>Dispersed To distribute widely; disseminate. “Silver has been dispersed to each Miao family over time.”</p>	<p>Accessories A nonessential component used for beauty, added pleasure, or convenience. “Necklaces, bracelets and hairpins are all accessories.”</p>
<p>Headdress An often elaborate covering or decoration for the head. “All the women were wearing a headdress at the Sister Festival.”</p>	<p>Intricate Having many complexly interrelated parts, angles, or aspects; involved; elaborate. “This necklace is very intricate and beautiful.”</p>	<p>Encourage To give help, support, or approval to. “She was encouraged to dress her best for the festival.”</p>
<p>Spectacular Daring or exciting. “Their dresses for the festival were spectacular.”</p>	<p>Source: Bowers Museum. Masters of Adornment: The Miao People of China. https://www.bowers.org/index.php/past-exhibition/masters-of-adornment-the-miao-people-of-china. Accessed June 18, 2020. The Art of Silver Jewellery: Minorities of China, the Golden Triangle, Mongolia and Tibet: the René Van Der Star Collection, by René van der Star et al.. Skira, 2006, pp 9-26. Clothings and Ornaments of China's Miao People, by The Cultural Palace of Nationalities, Beijing, 1985, pp 64.</p>	

3

PAPER CLIP CHAIN LINK NECKLACE

AGES

6 -9 years old

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Beginner

DESCRIPTION

For this project we will be making a chain link necklace inspired by the chain-link necklaces of the Miao people.

MATERIALS

Paper Clips	Beads
Scissors	

Materials with an () are optional, use only if available*

MUSIC

Now we have music that relates our lessons!

Check out the **Spotify Playlist:**

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2tPTEPpEOy118NYFiXzObW?si=ljviNknLSye_Lr9ui35pKA

Background

The people of Miao have a long and lasting relationship with **Silver**. Silver is a metal that is mined and molded into **ingots**. These blocks are then melted down to make silver wire, strips, or plates by a **Silversmith**. The wire is used for **welding** or small decorations. Silver sheets are hammered into hand carved metal or stone molds. The plate is then taken off the **mold** and placed on a workbench. Here, the silversmith will take fine tools and **engrave** beautiful patterns or details into the mold to make them more defined. When all the engravings are finished, the pieces are then all welded together using the silver wire. Once the pieces have cooled down, they are then be **polished** using an acid bath and a brush. This will make the silver regain its **luster** and shine.

This same **process** is used in making many more silver pieces, such as headdresses, bracelets, earrings, hair pins and necklaces. Necklaces and headdresses are among the most **complicated** pieces for a silversmith to make because of all the small parts that they are made of. Many necklaces include the use of silver plates, chains, and bells. However, the **simplest** design is the chain link necklace, just like the one we have in our Miao silver collection. This piece is made by connecting small peanut-shaped rings, which when combined make a single necklace. Aside from its simplicity, we can still admire the time and **labor** that it takes to make such a beautiful piece.

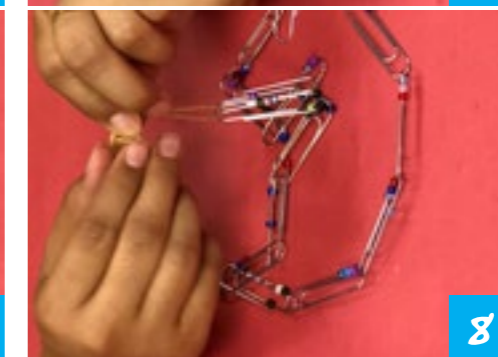
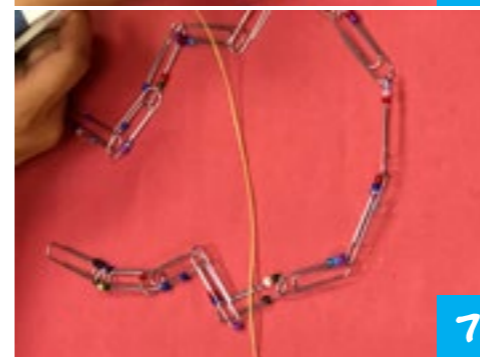
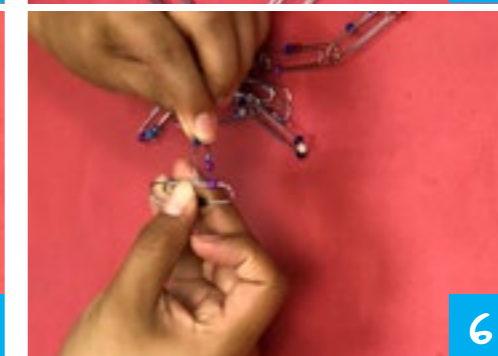
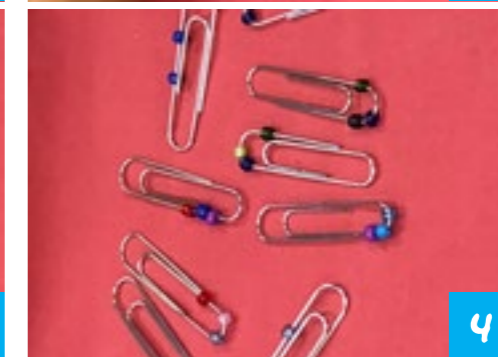
HELPFUL TIPS

- You can use colored paper clips.
- Use as little or as many paper clips as you need, for a short or long necklace.
- Add tassels or more decorative objects to your necklace.



Procedure

1. From the middle end of the paperclip, add beads through each piece.
2. Make sure to push the beads to the center so they do not fall out.
3. Using the outer end of the paper clip, slip it through another paper clip.
4. Repeat this until you have a long chain of paper clips.
5. Measure the chain along your neck to make sure it fits. Add or remove paper clips accordingly.
6. Make sure your last two paperclips on either end do not have beads. Then connect the two ends together for a completed necklace.



Key Vocabulary

<p>Silver</p> <p>A chemical element that has forty-seven protons in each nucleus and that occurs in pure form as a white, ductile, highly lustrous and reflective metal solid, used especially in making jewelry, coins, bullion, table utensils, and the like.</p> <p>“All of her jewelry was made of silver.”</p>	<p>Ingot</p> <p>A mass of metal cast into a shape that makes it easily handled or stored, or the mold in which it is cast.</p> <p>“They will melt the silver ingot into a liquid and then cast it.”</p>	<p>Silversmith</p> <p>One who makes, plates, or repairs articles of silver such as jewelry.</p> <p>“He was a highly skilled silversmith that had been smithing for 30 years.”</p>
<p>Welding</p> <p>To fuse metal or plastic by the application of heat, followed either by pressure or by addition of a molten filler material.</p> <p>“He will be welding a chain link necklace for me today.”</p>	<p>Mold</p> <p>A hollow form used to give a shape to a soft or molten substance that is poured into it and allowed to harden.</p> <p>“He poured the molten silver into the mold and left it to cool before removing the cast.”</p>	<p>Engrave</p> <p>To cut a design or lettering into a hard, flat surface.</p> <p>“He engraved many phoenixes into the silver plates.”</p>
<p>Polish</p> <p>To give a sleek surface to, especially by buffing.</p> <p>“He polished all the silver pieces before giving them to the customer.”</p>	<p>Luster</p> <p>The quality of a surface that reflects light softly; glossy; sheen.</p> <p>“The jewelry regained its luster after being polished.”</p>	<p>Process</p> <p>A systemic sequence of actions used to produce something or achieve an end.</p> <p>“The process of welding silver pieces is later followed by an acid bath and a polish.”</p>
<p>Complicated</p> <p>Consisting of many intricately interconnected or related parts.</p> <p>“All the pieces a silversmith makes are very complicated but beautiful.”</p>	<p>Simple</p> <p>Consisting of few parts of things, or consisting of only essential things.</p> <p>“Even simple necklaces required lots of time and skill to make.”</p>	<p>Labor</p> <p>The expenditure of physical and mental effort in the performance of work.</p> <p>“Being a silversmith is very labor-intensive.”</p>

Source:

Google Arts & Culture: Museum of Ethnic Cultures, Minzu University of China. Miao Intangible Cultural Heritage - Silversmithing. Miao Intangible Cultural Heritage — Silversmithing - Museum of Ethnic Cultures, Minzu University of China. Accessed June 26, 2020.

The Art of Silver Jewellery: Minorities of China, the Golden Triangle, Mongolia and Tibet: the René Van Der Star Collection, by René van der Star et al.. Skira, 2006, pp 9-26.

State and National Standards

Hair pin Adornments

California Content Standards:

HSS-1.4.3

Recognize similarities and differences of earlier generations in such areas as work (inside and outside the home), dress, manners, stories, games, and festivals, drawing from biographies, oral histories, and folklore.

Visual and Performing Art Standards.

VA.PK.2.7

Create a three-dimensional form.

VA.1.2.1

Use texture in two-dimensional and three-dimensional works of art.

Miao Head dress

State Content Standards:

HSS-1.4.3

Recognize similarities and differences of earlier generations in such areas as work (inside and outside the home), dress, manners, stories, games, and festivals, drawing from biographies, oral histories, and folklore.

Visual and Performing Art Standards.

VA.K.2.2

Demonstrate beginning skill in the use of tools and processes, such as the use of scissors, glue, and paper in creating a three-dimensional construction.

VA.K.3.3

Look at and discuss works of art from a variety of times and places.

Paper Clip Chain Link Necklace

State Content Standards:

HSS-1.4.3

Recognize similarities and differences of earlier generations in such areas as work (inside and outside the home), dress, manners, stories, games, and festivals, drawing from biographies, oral histories, and folklore.

Visual and Performing Arts Standards:

VA.1.2.8

Create artwork based on observations of actual objects and everyday scenes.

VA.PK.2.7

Create a three-dimensional form.

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