

Navajo Beads

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Shandiin (shon-DEEN) watched Grandmother make silver jewelry. “Grandmother,” said Shandiin, “can I make jewelry?”

“Yes,” Grandmother said. “Let’s start with beads.”



Grandmother showed Shandiin the bead box
and gave her a silver wire.



Shandiin chose yellow beads. She counted by ones, “1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.” She used 11 beads. Grandmother twisted the wire closed. Now Shandiin had a ring to wear.



“What next?” asked Grandmother.

“Earrings,” said Shandiin. On 2 small pieces of thread she put black and white beads. She counted by twos, “2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24.” She used 24 beads for each.



Grandmother
made a loop and put
on clips to hold them
to Shandiin's ears.

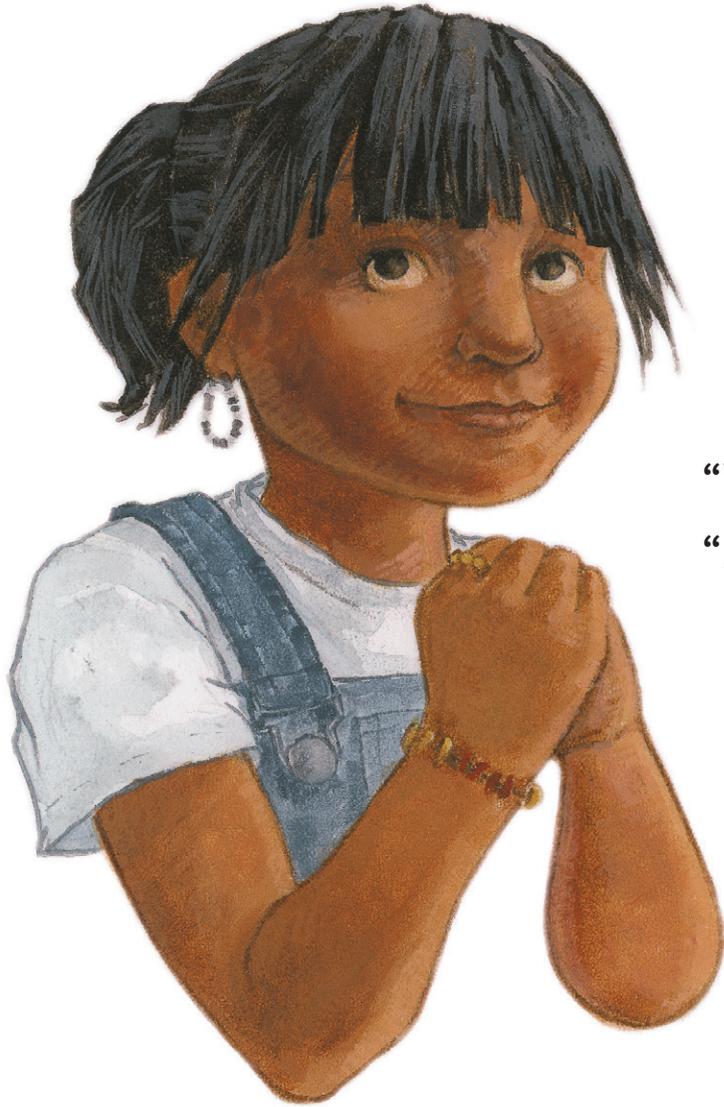


“What’s next?” asked Grandmother.

“A bracelet,” said Shandiin. She looped the string through holes in the beads to make them lie flat.



She counted the beads by fives, “5, 10, 15, 20.” She used 20 beads. Shandiin had a bead bracelet to wear!



“What’s next?” asked Grandmother.
“A necklace,” said Shandiin.



She strung 10 beads together, then tied a knot, then strung 10 more beads, until the necklace was long enough. She counted the groups of ten, “10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60.” 60 beads grouped in tens.



Grandmother tied the necklace. Shandiin put it on. “Thank you,” said Shandiin. “Do you think I can become a jewelry artist like you?”



“Yes,” said
Grandmother, hugging
her close. “I asked my
grandmother the very
same question.”

Math & Science

Skip Counting

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