

# Art Activity

## Create an Ancient Egyptian-Inspired Amulet

**Take & Make:** DIY Clay Amulet

**Ages:** 8+\**Younger children are encouraged to work on this project alongside a parent or guardian.*

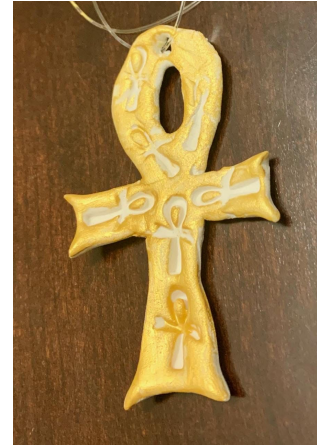
**Collection:** Ancient Art

**Culture/Region:** Ancient Egypt

**Subject Area:** Fine Arts, Visual Arts

**Activity Type:** Hands-On Activity

**Description:** Create your own amulet inspired by the ancient Egyptians



## Create an Ancient Egyptian-Inspired Amulet

People in ancient Egypt would wear amulets just as we wear jewelry today! However, amulets were commonly used as protection, or for good luck to bring about good and ward off evil for the wearer – similar to how we might carry a lucky coin, or wear a lucky bracelet. Now it is your turn to create an amulet inspired by the Ancient Egyptians!

### Materials:

- Model magic®
- Sharpie/Marker
- Sketch paper
- Rubber cord
- Scissors
- plastic bag
- **Optional:** a marble or small stone, paint, and paint brush
- **Optional:** If you would prefer to make your own salt dough, instead of using model magic, follow the recipe found at the bottom of this document.



## Creating your own Amulet

1. Be inspired by ancient Egyptian amulets. Sketch your amulet using a pencil on a blank sheet of paper. Use a dark colored sharpie, pen, or marker to outline your drawing.



2. Make a small ball of clay.

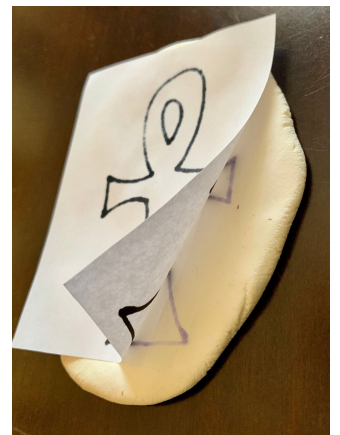


3. With the ball of clay in-between your hands, press your hands together and begin to flatten the ball to create a slab, or flat pancake-like piece of clay.



4. Gently press your sketch – front side down – into your slab of clay. Smooth out the paper so that it presses the ink from your marker onto the clay. If your ink isn't transferring, use a drop of water to release the ink from the paper.

5. Carefully peel your paper off the clay slab.



6. Use your scissors to cut out the outline shape of your amulet.



7. Decorate your amulet with a marble (or small stone) and leftover clay to add details. Press the marble into the clay and use the leftover clay to cover the edges. You can also add stamp patterns and designs onto your amulet using the end of your marker, pen, or other found objects.



8. Using a pencil or pen, create a small hole at the top of your amulet. Cut a 9in-12in strand of string and lace it through the opening.

9. Once you have completed your amulet, let it air dry for about 24 hours. Save left over model magic or salt dough by wrapping it tightly in its aluminum package or plastic wrap and store in an airtight container for up to 3-4 days



10. **Optional:** Once your amulet is dry, paint your amulet or decorate it however desired!



## Explore More at VMFA!



### **Rectangular Wadjet Eye Amulet**, 1069 – 945 BC

Unknown Artist

Egyptian

Faience

Egyptian Gallery

2018.46

The wadjet eye was one of the most popular amulets in ancient Egypt. The eye represents the healed eye of the god Horus, who was a god associated with a falcon. The wadjet eye is a combination of a human and a falcon eye. Horus' eye was

injured by his uncle, the god Seth, and then restored by either the god Thoth or goddess Hathor. The eye symbolizes healing power and rebirth. A wadjet amulet was thought to protect its wearer and to transfer the power of reb onto rebirth or her. It was used by the living as well as for the dead.

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## Making your own Salt Dough

### Ingredients/Supplies:

- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 cup salt
- 2 tsp. cream of tartar
- 1 tbsp. Oil
- 1 cup water
- stove-top safe pot
- Stove-top safe spoon
- stove-top burner
- parchment or baking paper

**Allergen Options:** *Substitute flour for gluten free or other alternative flours to accommodate allergies. Add additional oil or water if dough is too sticky.*

### Salt Dough Instructions:

1. Combine flour, salt, cream of tartar, oil, and water into a large pot.
2. Place the pot on a stovetop burner and using medium heat constantly stir all ingredients until the dough begins pulling away from the sides of the pot (approximately 2-5 minutes).
3. Once a dough ball has formed, remove dough from the pot and place it on parchment paper. Let cool until safe to touch.
4. Knead your dough until the texture matches that of a play-dough consistency (about 1-2 minutes).