

Art Activity

Create a Taíno Pendant

Take & Make: Create a Taíno Pendant

Ages: 6+

Culture/Region: Puerto Rico

Subject Area: Fine Arts, Visual Arts

Activity Type: Hands-On Activity

Create a Taíno pendant inspired by Taíno rock carvings!



The Taíno were the indigenous people of the Caribbean - Hispaniola (now the Dominican Republic and Haiti), present-day Jamaica, Cuba, the Bahamas, and Puerto Rico among other areas. Although the original Taíno people became nearly extinct primarily due to infectious diseases brought over by Spanish colonists, the culture continued through future generations. Taíno petroglyphs, or rock carvings, found in caves near Puerto Rico, are some of the oldest symbols in the world. These rock carvings help people know and learn about indigenous culture. Create your own pendant inspired by Taíno carvings using the supplies and instructions shared below!

Materials:

- Ribbon/String
- Beads
- Model Magic
- Carving tools
- Taíno Outlines (linked below)

Creating a Taino Pendant

1. Knead air-dry clay until it's smooth. Try rolling it into a ball using your hands.



2. Press it into a flat disk.



3. Etch designs into clay using pencil, the pointed end of a toothpick or other household objects. For Taíno symbol inspiration visit TainoAge.com.



4. Make a hole at the top of the disk and string to your pendant to make it into a necklace.

5. String your beads along either side of the pendant.



6. Let your clay air dry until it starts to harden. Your clay will be completely dry after 24hrs.
7. Once your clay has dried, wear your pendant for all to see.



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Pendant of Twin Frogs (Primary Title), AD 800 - 1500
Unknown (Artist)
Panama or Costa Rica, Diquis-Veraguas
Gold
[Pre-Columbian Art](#)
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