

Native American Gorgets

Gorgets are pendants worn around the neck and hung from a string. In Texas, gorgets made of marine shell have been found in Caddo Indian archeological sites in East Texas. The shells used to create these gorgets were obtained through trade with Indians living in coastal areas of the state and would have been considered prestige items. People of high social status would have used material such as this. The symbols used to decorate the gorgets could have symbolized ritual knowledge and/or political power in the community.

Here are some examples of marine shell gorgets found in Texas.



Shell Gorget, 41BW4, Bowie County



Shell Gorget, 41LR2, Lamar County



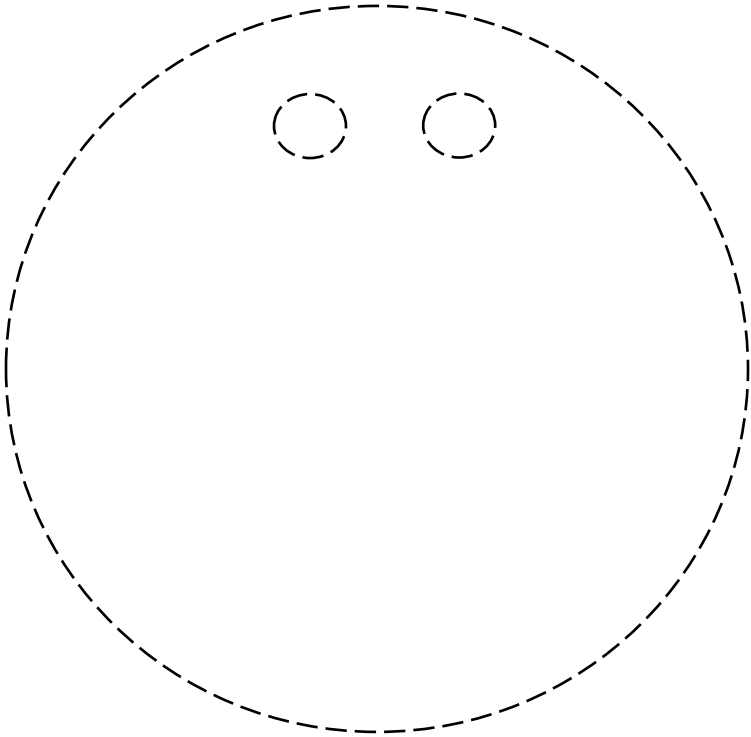
Shell Gorget, 41LR2, Lamar County

For more information about shell gorgets and marine shell ornaments visit the Texas Beyond History website at <https://texasbeyondhistory.net/coast/nature/>

Design Your Own Shell Gorget

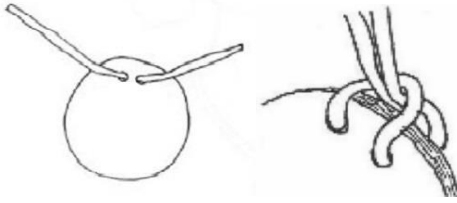
Directions:

1. Cut out the paper gorget below:



2. Use crayons or markers and draw your own design on the gorget enclosed in this kit.
3. String a cord through the holes and tie the ends of the string together.

Examples for stringing the cord:



4. Wear your gorget loosely around your neck.

Warning: Not recommended for children younger than 3 years old. Necklace should be worn loosely to avoid injury.

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