

Jewelry Making — 50-Minute Lesson (Grades 6–8)

Learning Goals

- Identify and safely use basic jewelry tools and findings (e.g., crimp beads, jump rings, clasps).
- Plan and execute a simple design using patterning concepts (AB, ABC, symmetry, focal bead).
- Construct one finished piece (bracelet, necklace, or charm keychain) that fits properly and is secure.

Success Criteria (student-friendly)

- “I can describe what each tool/finding does.”
- “I can follow a bead pattern and explain my design choice.”
- “My jewelry fits, the clasp works, and nothing slides off.”

Materials (for ~10 students)

- Beads: assorted sizes (4–10 mm) and shapes; include a few focal beads.
- Stringing options: elastic cord, beading wire, or waxed cotton cord.
- Findings: lobster/toggle clasps, split rings or jump rings, crimp beads/tubes, crimp covers.
- Tools: bead boards/trays, bead stoppers or tape, pliers, wire cutters/scissors, ruler.
- Keychain rings.
- Safety: eyewear if using wire cutters; small parts disclaimer.

Vocabulary Mini-Poster

Bead pattern, focal bead, symmetry, crimp bead, jump ring, clasp, surgeon’s knot, measure to fit.

Timeline & Teacher Moves

0–5 min — Hook & Goals

Show three sample pieces; prompt students on design features; state goals and success criteria.

5–12 min — Safety + Tool/Finding Demo

Cover safety rules, demonstrate measuring, knotting elastic, using crimps, and opening jump rings.

12–15 min — Design Choice & Sketch

Students choose project type (bracelet, necklace, keychain) and sketch pattern.

15–40 min — Build Time (Workshop)

Students lay out beads, string, and finish jewelry at teacher station.

40–45 min — Mini Gallery Walk

Quick share of finished pieces using sentence stems for reflection.

45–50 min — Clean-Up + Exit Ticket

Assign clean-up jobs, ask exit ticket questions about findings and patterns.

Project Guides

A) Elastic Bracelet

- Measure wrist; cut elastic ~12–14”.
- String beads with pattern.
- Test fit.
- Tie surgeon’s knot, secure, hide knot.

B) Beading-Wire Necklace

- Cut wire (neck size + 3”).
- Crimp one end with clasp.
- String beads with focal.
- Finish other end with crimp and jump ring.

C) Charm Keychain

- Cut short wire/cord.
- Attach to key ring.
- Add beads, finish with knot or crimp.
- Add charm with jump ring.

Assessment

- Tool/Process: used findings correctly & safely.
- Design & Pattern: clear repeat/symmetry and focal choice.
- Craftsmanship: secure finish; appropriate fit; neatness.
- Reflection: can explain design choice using vocabulary.