

# Make Your Own Mississippian-Style Gorget

A gorget is a pendant that is worn on the chest, hung from a string or necklace. They were often made of shell and decorated with various designs or symbols, such as spiders.

The spider was an important symbol to the people of the Mississippian culture. Archaeologists think the spider represents fire, the center of the earth, or the four directions. It has also been associated with women, weaving, and balance.

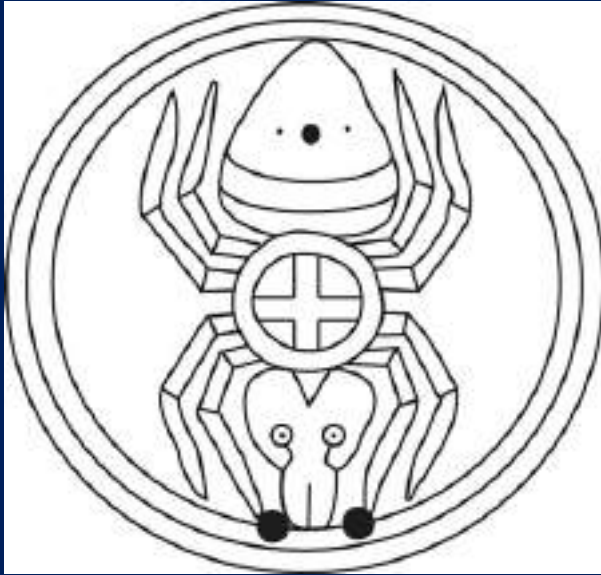


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# Supplies Needed:

- Self-hardening clay (such as Crayola terra cotta air-dry clay)
- A pointed stick, toothpick or pencil point
- A cord or string, long enough to tie around your neck





## Instructions:

- Flatten a two-inch ball of clay into a small disk. Leave some blank space at the top - this is where you will thread your cord through later.
- Using your stick, pencil point, or toothpick, carefully draw the spider design (or another design!) into the clay.
- After you have finished etching your design into the clay, use your pointed edge to poke two holes into the top of your gorget about 1/2-inch from the edge. Leave your gorget to dry overnight.
- After your gorget has dried, thread your cord or string through the holes in the top (you might need a grown-up's help!) and tie the two ends together. Make sure your string is long enough to fit around your neck!