

Somerset Interfaith & Belief Network

Storytelling Beads

CONNECT with each other through activity

Beads have been made and worn in many cultures, all around the world for thousands of years. They are among the earliest human ornaments and have value economically, socially and historically

This workshop uses beads, stories and memories from Somerset & around the world. It draws on sharing, making and designing to create beads to take away.



Explore how beads are used to tell and hold stories, how beads play important roles in the journey of life and can be family or community heirlooms. Come along and create your own beads to take away and a story to go with.

The beads and background materials in our Beadmaking & Beads Box and across most of our Country Collections provide inspiration for conversation starters on heritage, culture, migration, faith and belief, inter-cultural understanding, lived-by & family values, creating a sense of belonging. Talking in a trusting listening space can lead into traditions, good luck charms, stories, folklore, human values, the list is endless!

During the workshop, participants will learn a bit about beads and designs, their meanings and choose some they feel a connection with. Practise with different shapes and designs before planning out and creating their own beads to take away. Hopefully participants will share some of their thoughts and motivations whilst their beads are drying.

The GLADE Centre can run this practical workshop making beads from paper, with glue, scissors and pens, please come prepared for craftwork, you are welcome to bring your own apron, craft overalls to protect your clothes. Should you have a story to share or a bead bracelet/ necklace you'd like to share with us, please do bring that along, however you take responsibility for the item and its care.

Items we provide to use:-a wide variety of original beads to handle and view, unique and authentic from a variety of countries and communities, selection of papers to glue and shape, bead templates to take away, explanations of some bead meanings, and background material including authentic beads, with sentimental and cultural value, photos, and a selection of easy read stories for participants to browse, with connections to heritage themes.

- small sizes of paper for making beads and some take away
- pens, thick ones for shading/ block colours and plus finer ones for touching up printing
- poster paint, water, pots or fabric dyes and pens NB these are likely to be permanent
- plastic cover for tables.

Contact Lynn; lynn@glade.org to book

Convened by

<https://interfaithbelief.glade.org/>

Funded By Somerset Council



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Start or End with a story

Use a short story from the GLADE Centre's Book Baskets or Literacy Collections. This makes the workshop interactive and participatory. End with a think-pair-share for all ages.

To view a selection of items to borrow, visit <https://glade.org/resources/global-resource-loans/>



Some of the stories can be chosen to prompt participants to create a storytelling bracelet or a story jar. Once you start, your storytelling beads are endless and habit-forming!

Whatever story is used, the shapes, colours, textures of the bead help retell the story and are strung in story order. The process is as important as the product. This can bring alive the importance of beads in prayer and reflection, meditation and mindfulness.

Example, Title: Where Stories Come From – a folktale (search online)

Summary: a legend about how the first story “came to be”. encouraging storytelling and re-telling a heard story.

You will likely need beads to represent the following:-

the African continent

a family – might be an extended family

the mother – recurring in the story

seaside/ water (recurring theme)

the darkness

a fire

unhappiness

a journey (recurring) might be handy to have beads to represent the landscapes travelled through.

Animals x5; you decide but the story has – a hare, a monkey & baby, an owl, an eagle, a turtle

the sea – again

undersea world/ undersea kingdom

king & queen under the sea

dry land

turtle - again

carving wood/ artist / village carving

a 'magic' shell – imagine a large one you can put to your ear & listen to

village, family & friends

children

fire

a 'magic' shell

happiness



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