

Fancywork



“Fancywork” is a term for a craft movement of the late 19th and early 20th century that emphasized the use of natural materials. Some women spent their free time making works of art from materials like hair, seeds, shells, feathers, and dried flowers. Men who participated in fancywork tended to make crafts from wood and metal

The photo above is an example of Victorian Era fancywork. This bouquet looks like flowers, but is actually made from painted sea shells which are glued together.

Learn about history

Questions to help learn about fancywork

What are “natural materials”?

What kinds of natural materials are available your area?

How do you spend your free time?

What types of crafts do you like to make?

For more information about Victorian fancywork, view the 1876 book *Ladies’ Fancy Work* available as a Google Book at this link

<http://books.google.com/books?id=oBZHAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=ladies+fancywork&hl=en&sa=X&ei=Z7NyUtm0A8qwygGuzYDwCw&ved=OCC8Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=ladies%20fancywork&f=false>



Fancywork Mosaic Craft Activity

This activity teaches children about Victorian fancywork through the creation of a mosaic ornament using beans and seeds.

Materials

- Cardboard form (oval 3.5x3 inches)
- Ribbon
- Elmer's glue
- Different Colors of Beans/Seeds (lentils, popcorn, pinto beans, navy beans, black beans)

Steps for Mosaic craft

1. Cover a table with paper or a disposable tablecloth.
2. Use a cardboard form of any shape, a small oval about 3.5 inches by 3 inches works well.
3. Punch a small hole at the top center of the cardboard form. Thread ribbon through hole and tie ribbon in a knot.
4. Decide what kind of decoration to create. There's no wrong option, stripes work well and so do polka dots. An oval form can easily be transformed into a jack-o-lantern or a themed ornament for any holiday.
5. Put some craft glue on a small portion of the cardboard form.
6. Press beans or seeds in to the glue. It is easiest to work a section at a time. If creating a pattern, such as a Christmas tree, create or trace that basic shape first and then fill around the shape.
7. Allow the glue to dry fully prior to displaying the ornament.

