

Adders are Amazing! Gwiberod Gwych!

15. ADDER AMULETS



INTRODUCTION



Adder stones appear throughout many myths and legends, from Celtic, Welsh and Irish cultures, and even further afield from Russia. They were highly valued by the pagan Druids and were thought to heal a number of ailments, as well as protecting their owner from ill fortune. Adder stones, are essentially stones with a natural hole in them, believed to have been created by adders. Using this positive myth, we developed a craft activity for older children – an adder amulet. Creating the amulet helps to reinforce ID skills and provides a beautiful keepsake to remind them of the positive qualities our ancestors believed adders possessed.

MATERIALS:



- Air drying modelling clay. We use DAS white modelling clay (see 'Resources'). A 1kg pack makes around 30 amulets.
- Wool (we used brown, black and white)
- Scissors
- Beads with a large hole
- Glue spreaders or similar tools
- Finger bowls for water
- Waterproof marker pens (Sharpies) to add colour

MAKE IT!



1 Cut the modelling clay into small pieces – approx. 5cm x 3cm x 1cm rectangles. This can be prepared ahead of the day by wrapping individual blocks in cling film.

2 Pass to the children and ask them to unwrap **ONLY** when you are ready to start. Over-handling clay dries it out. Get them to squash up and soften the clay, using a little water if needed.



MAKE IT!

- 3** Ask the children to roll it into a smooth ball on the table or in their hands. Squeeze cracks together and use more water if it dries.



- 4** Roll the ball into a sausage shape – but don't make it too thin. Leave it no thinner than 1cm thick. Again, smooth with more water if needed.



- 5** Use a glue spreader or similar straight edged tool to make a zig zag pattern along the top of the snake. Make eyes and a 'V' shape on the head.



- 6** CAREFULLY, coil the snake up, making sure the zig zag stays on top. Have the tail in the middle of the coil and the head at the end.



- 7** Use the glue spreader to make a hole through the middle to insert (plaited) wool to allow the child to wear it (when dry) as a pendant.



- 8** If desired, colour with marker pens, and add beads and wool when the clay has dried a little. Leaving the amulets in a warm place for an hour is sufficient for this.

