

SCRABBLE JEWELRY . . . SERIOUSLY?

ART-INSPIRED SCRABBLE TILE PENDANTS

VISUAL ART

GRADES: K-12

CONCEPT

One of the hottest trends in the craft market today is Scrabble tile jewelry, magnets and glass charms. One trip through the local City Flea and you'll see at least 1-2 vendors with these tiny treasures on any given market day. Scrabble tiles are easily converted into mini works of art, either by cutting maps, decorative scrapbooking paper or using images from your own photo collection. And there's even a "cheating" way to achieve the same glossy look without the extra step of Mod Podge and Diamond Glaze!

OBJECTIVES

Students will make a pendant from a wooden tile.

MATERIALS

- Scrabble or blank wood tiles (Amazon.com is great CHEAP place to locate tiles)
- Images of artwork, maps, etc. or decorative/scrapbook paper on thick cardstock or photo paper (I personally purchase downloads from Etsy for specific things I am looking for)
- Scissors
- Cutting mat or cutting board
- Wax paper or parchment paper
- Cookie sheet or other flat surface for drying
- Tacky Glue
- Mod Podge
- Diamond Glaze or Glamour Glaze
- Small paint brush
- Toothpicks
- Exacto knife or other craft knife
- Cup (glass, paper, plastic)
- Glue-on jewelry bail (or other variation depending on final product purpose – i.e. magnet back)
- E6000 Adhesive or Superglue
- Adhesive acrylic or glass squares

PROCEDURE

1. Cut image you want to use so that it is slightly larger than the tile. Make sure that the paper is thick enough to handle wet glue.
2. Using a paintbrush or toothpick, apply a layer of Tacky glue (or other adhesive) from corner to corner.
3. Place the cut image to the tile with the decorative side up, ensuring it is in the same direction as the letter on the back of the tile.
4. Clean your brush.
5. Flatten the image gently but completely using your finger or a burnisher. Use a piece of wax paper or parchment to ensure wet paper is not damaged or torn. Be sure the paper is flat on the tile surface and no air bubbles remain between tile and paper.

6. Let tile dry completely (usually between 15-20 minutes).
7. Place tile letter side up on your cutting surface. Trim the excess edges of the image with the Exacto knife being very careful not to cut into the soft wooden tile.
8. Using the cleaned paint brush, seal the image with a thin layer of Mod Podge extending to the tile edges. You can seal the sides of the tile, as well. (It is a good idea to seal any "cracks" between the image and the tile edges.)
9. Let tile dry completely again (usually between 15-20 minutes).
10. Now apply the Diamond or Glamour Glaze, which will give the finish a shiny, glossy sheen. DO NOT SHAKE THE BOTTLE. Make sure your first drops of glaze are dabbed onto scrap paper to take care of the air bubble(s) that form at first.
11. Evenly cover the trimmed paper-covered tiles with a generous amount of glaze, spreading gently with a toothpick. The toothpick may also be used to remove air bubbles.
12. If you are adding beads or crystals, now is the time to add them. Work quickly and use the toothpick tip coated in glaze to pick up the beads or crystals, then affix them to the paper. If you are attaching crystals, wait until the very last coat is applied.
13. You can add a second coat of glaze, but only once the first coat has thoroughly dried.
14. Once the tile is completely dried and you have finished all coats of glaze, take an emery board or fine sandpaper or metal nail file and gently sand around the edges of the tile to remove any imperfections, if needed.
15. Attach the bail to the back of the tile with E6000 or Super Glue. Let dry before wearing.

NATIONAL STANDARDS

Art Connections

Standard 1. Understands connections among the various art forms and other disciplines.

Visual Arts

Standard 5. Understands the characteristics and merits of one's own artwork and the artwork of others.

Technology

Standard 6. Understands the nature and uses of different forms of technology.

RESOURCES

Sample Tutorials for Making Scrabble Tile Jewelry

Any web search for "Scrabble Tile Jewelry" will yield lots of results. Here are just a few:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pdHEW6JhRCA>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFtZgU65jGM>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEalfpZzj24>

<http://www.kidzworld.com/article/27711-how-to-make-a-scrabble-tile-pendant>

<http://generallycreative.blogspot.com/2010/08/scrabble-tile-pendant.html>

<http://www.thepaperpixie.com/2012/07/scrabble-tile-pendant-video.html>