

## WORKSHOP: "BEADING EMBROIDERY"



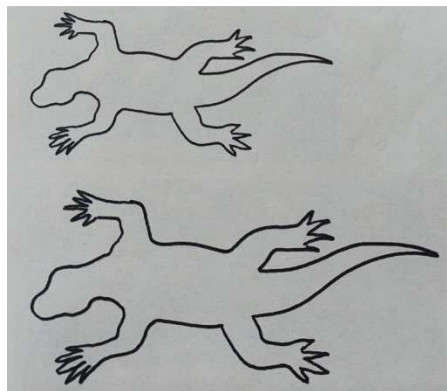
**Summary:** Participant will work on a felt surface couching seed beads to create a creature shape. They can create a design of their own or work with the patterns provided.

### Materials and Equipment:

sketch paper	pencil, eraser, sharpener
water soluble marker	sewing kit with scissors
beading needle	lizard patterns
light and dark sewing thread	felt square
pliers	instructions/ideas sheet
seed beads: 3 tubes large beads, 2 tubes small	

### Class Plan:

1. Cut out the lizard shape from the pattern provided, or draw your own shape if you prefer. There are two sizes of lizards to choose from. The smaller one is less work and uses fewer beads.



2. Transfer the outline of your lizard shape onto your felt square:
  - a. This can be done by tracing it with a water soluble marker. The marker will wash out completely when the fabric is made wet.



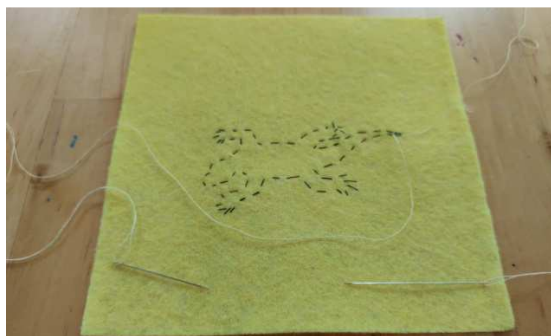
- b. If you do not want to make your beading wet, you can transfer the outline by basting around it. Basting is straight in and out stitching around the outside of the shape without anchoring your thread, so it can be easily removed after beading. Use a contrasting thread colour so it is easy to see on your fabric.



3. Choose beads to create your lizard, three colours of larger seed beads and two colours of smaller ones. The large beads make up the body, arms legs and tail. The smaller beads are used to outline your shape and for eyes.



4. Use thread in two needles that match the colour of your background. Use one beading needle and one regular sewing needle. We used yellow thread on a yellow felt square.
5. Anchor your thread when starting a new thread or ending one. Take 4-5 small stitches on top of each other in the place. Choose a place that will be hidden by your beading so it doesn't show later.
  - a. Anchor your beading needle thread at the tip of the tail of your lizard. Anchor your sewing thread about ¼" in from the tip of the tail of your lizard.



6. Couch lines of beads onto your lizard shape. Couching is attaching a line of beads on the surface of a piece of fabric by stitching it down flat with another thread.
- a. Thread enough larger seed beads on your beading needle to run the length of your lizard from head to tail. Stitch in place a few times at the head of your lizard with your beading needle to hold the line in place.



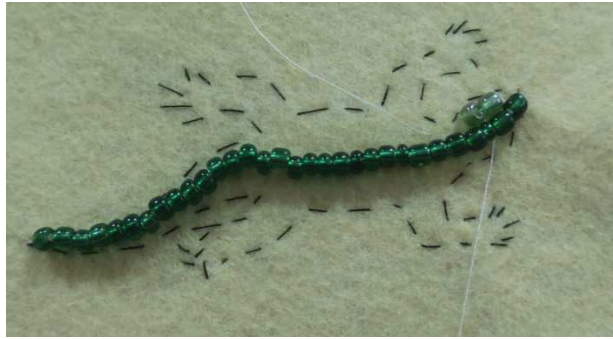
- b. Stitch about ½" along the line under the beads with your sewing needle.



- c. Take a few tiny stitches in place perpendicular to the line of beads, going over the beading thread with the sewing needle to hold the line of beads in place.



7. Fill in the rest of the body of the lizard using the same technique.
- a. Add two of the larger seed beads in light green for one side of the head. Stitch at the end of the bead line with the beading needle to hold the end in place. Use the sewing needle to couch down the centre of the thread as above.



- b. Stitch further along the lizard's spine with both needles and add a line of larger light green seed beads along the body.



- c. Add similar lines of beads for the body and head on the other side of the lizard.



- d. Add similar lines of beading with the same method for the arms and legs using pale green larger seed beads. We made the lizard look like he was on an angle by combining the body section with the arm beads on one side and with the leg beads on the other side.





8. Add an outline in smaller seed beads using a light colour of beads for the body and a darker colour for the head. Start where the lizard's neck connects to his arm and work around the body first.
- a. Pick up beads using your beading needle, threading enough on to go around half of the lizard's body.



- b. Push the beads snug up against the lizard's body, and take an extra stitch through the last bead to hold them in place.



- c. Couch the string of beads in place using the needle with your sewing thread and taking little stitches across your string of beads to hold it in place.



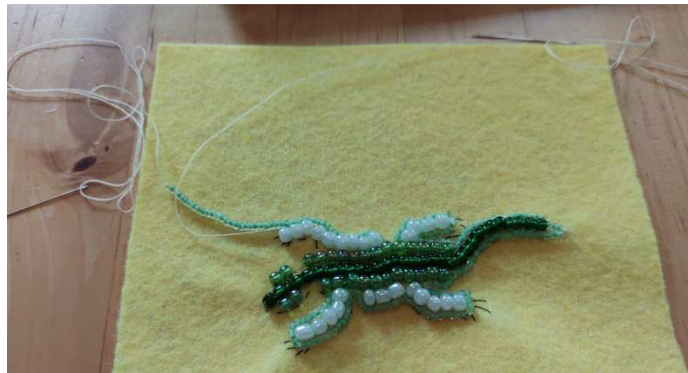
- d. Instead of taking a stitch you can stab your needle through the felt exactly where you want it then bring the needle back up through the fabric along the line of beads.



- e. Anchor the outline bead thread at the tip of the tail by taking a few stitches in place with the beading needle.



- f. Thread more beads on your beading needle thread to finish the other half of the lizard's body. Use the sewing thread to hold them in place, repositioning it to take stitches the same way as before.



- g. Repeat the outline procedure with dark beads to go around the lizard's head.



9. To add eyes to your lizard:
  - a. Stitch from back to front through the larger light green bead at the front of your lizard's head with your

beading needle. Then thread three lighter colour small seed beads onto your beading needle.



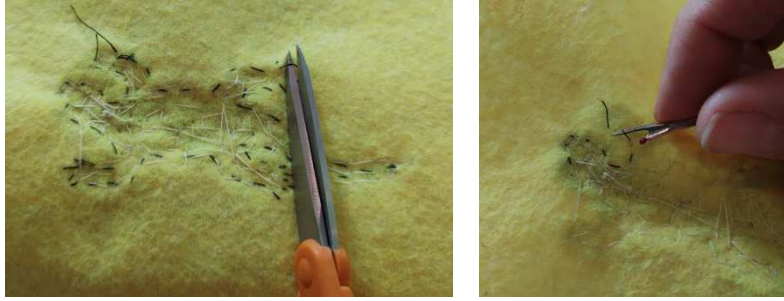
- b. Stitch back through the first two seed beads on your thread, and then back through the larger lighter green bead where you started.



- c. Anchor your thread on the back of your work by taking a few stitching in the same place in your felt.



- d. Repeat for the second eye on the other side of your lizard's head.
10. Optional: If you basted your lizard outline you can remove the darker stitching with scissors and a stitch ripper. Gently pull out the thread stitch by stitch, trimming the thread as you go.



11. Happy creating, and please share pictures of your creations if you feel comfortable.

**Useful Information/Adaptions/Variations:**

- Ko (pronounced K-O) thread is a waxed nylon Japanese beading thread that works with seed beads. This is ideal for seed beading and loom work
- There are about 62 beads in each tube of larger beads provided. There are about 250 seed beads in each tube of smaller beads provided.
- Beading needles and beads come in all different sizes. The larger the number the smaller the item. Be sure to match your needle to the beads you plan to use with it, so that it will pass through the bead holes when threaded.
- You can make the stitching on the back of your work neater if you plan to be able to see it from both sides or by stitching another piece of fabric over it to hide the stitches.

**Trouble Shooting:**

- If you have trouble pulling your beading needle through you can use pliers to help pull the needle.
- Sometimes seed beads of the same size vary in hole size. If you have trouble pulling your beading needle through try swapping out the bead the needle won't go through with another one from the same jar.
- If you have trouble threading beading needles, try using a "big eye needle". With these needles, the hole for threading runs the entire length of the needle.



## Lizard Patterns

