

# Make a deertooth necklace ... out of salt dough!

Deertooth necklaces are very important to the characters in this book. You can create your own by following Sophie Kirtley's instructions for this fun (and slightly messy!) craft activity over the next few pages ...

## You will need:

- A big bowl
- A cup
- Flour
- Salt
- Water
- A skewer, or a thin twig
- A baking tray lined with greaseproof paper
- A chunky needle (like an embroidery needle)
- A length of string or leather cord

## Method (Charlie Merriam style)

1. Mix one cup of flour and half a cup of salt with half a cup of water to make a lovely ball of mouldable dough.



2. Take a small lump of dough and shape it into a rough deertooth shape, about the size of your little finger. Don't be too fussy about making it perfect – you're a rough and rugged Stone Age child, remember!
3. Why not experiment with different animal teeth – what would a sabre-toothed tiger's tooth look like? Or a wild boar tooth? Or a bear tooth? Or you could even make a pebble shape ... or a claw? We even carved some lines into one of the deerteeth, just like the lines on the deertooth in *The Wild Way Home*.



4. Lay your deerteeth on the lined baking tray as you go, leaving space between each one.





# Make a deertooth necklace continued ...

5. When you're happy that you have enough, get a skewer and carefully pierce each deertooth at its widest point and give it a wiggle. Be sure to leave plenty of dough around the hole you make so that your deertooth can be attached securely later.



6. Heat up the oven to about 50°–70° and bake for at least two millennia (actually three hours or so) until they're rock solid.
7. When your deerteeth are cool, arrange them how you would like them to look on the necklace. If you have made pebbles, you might want to paint them. Cut a length of string that is long enough to take off over your head, leave some extra for knotting it too.



8. Thread your needle (or if it's easier, you can just use the string on its own), then tie a big knot at the end of the string.
9. Thread the deerteeth on to your string.



10. When you're done, knot the string really securely. Remember to make it long enough so that you can put it on and take it off again! (Unless you want to be a full-time Stone Age child!)
11. Ta-da! Wear your Stone Age deertooth necklace with wild pride!



Watch  
Sophie Kirtley  
make her  
deertooth  
necklaces!





# Deertooth necklace discussion questions

**What were deertooth necklaces really for?**

While you're making your necklaces maybe have a little wonder about why you think real Stone Age people wore deertooth necklaces. Even today, no one NEEDS to wear a necklace, or a ring ... or get a tattoo, do they? So why do us humans want to do these things? Is it just to look interesting or is there a deeper meaning behind the ways we decorate ourselves? What significance do you think deerteeth might have had to Stone Age people?

**What's changed?**

Have a look at the instructions below and compare how we made our salt dough deertooth necklaces with how Stone Age people would've made their own real-life deertooth necklaces 6000 years ago ... What's changed? For better or for worse?

## You will need:

- A forest full of wild animals
  - A tree
  - Flint
- A lifetime of hunting practice and spear-making skills

## Method (Harby style)

1. Make your spearhead with flint
2. Make your spearshaft from wood
3. Make your spear
4. Hunt a deer
5. Give thanks
6. Use the meat to eat and the skin to make clothes – nothing can be wasted
7. Prepare your deertooth, using a small sharp stone to create a small hole
8. Carve lines upon your deertooth – one for every summer
9. Thread your deertooth on to a length of deer leather
10. Attach around your neck
11. Make safe

