



## Yummy Viking Treasure Necklace

Taught by Dame SæhildR barngóðR

aka "Dame Silly"

[damesaehildr@gmail.com](mailto:damesaehildr@gmail.com)

*All ages welcome! (Toddlers through Centenarians)  
Come learn about some fun historical jewelry  
& make your own edible version!*

### Intro:

A tenth century Arab once said that the Vikings would "go to any length to get hold of colored beads" (Wernick, 94). Beads (along with pottery, nails and knives) are the most common items found in pre-Christian Viking graves. However, since making beads by hand is extremely labor-intensive (that means hard careful work), beads were (and still are) valuable and expensive. Beads were passed down to younger relatives, gathered up during raids, and eagerly purchased at the great market towns like Hedeby and Birka.

Having enough of one kind of bead to make a necklace was quite expensive. The people we call vikings loved lots of Color (just like many of us!) So, a natural way to show off your prized beads and beautiful colors was a treasure necklace.

You can make your own necklace with beads, like the ones I wear, but just like back then, they can be expensive! But, I like to make fun edible necklaces with my favorite holey treats! (Holey as in they have a hole, not that they've been religiously blessed!)

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**Instructor Bio:** Dame SæhildR barngóðR was born late summer two winters after the birth of Gamle Eirikssen (the eldest son of King Eric Bloodaxe) about mid-Tvímánuður (approx. September 9, 912 Gregorian). In the SCA, she is commonly called Dame Silly. She has been a Pelican since AS 57. She is the creator of It Takes My Child to Raze a Village and is also the current Middle Kingdom Minister of Youth. Her modern name is Sarah Jean Meyer. She has a Bachelor's of Science in general studies with a concentration in elementary methods, curriculum & assessment. She is the program director of a before & after school enrichment program.

## Procedure

### Materials:

- A length of acrylic yarn (about a yard long --I like to make sure I have enough room to tie a knot at the end!)
- A plastic yarn needle or some tape --to make it easier to thread your "beads"
- Your favorite breakfast cereal with holes - I am using Multi-grain Cheerios because I can pretend it's amber!
- Other holey foods - I've got pretzel twists, Gerber teething wheels, Sour gummy Lifesavers, and some knockoff Scout Cookies made by elves. (marshmallows don't have a hole but can be successfully strung!)

You can do whatever you like, it's your necklace --you should eat it before it goes stale. I recommend tying a larger "treasure" to one end so your beads don't fall off the end!

Here's a common way to make it look more like a real treasure necklace:

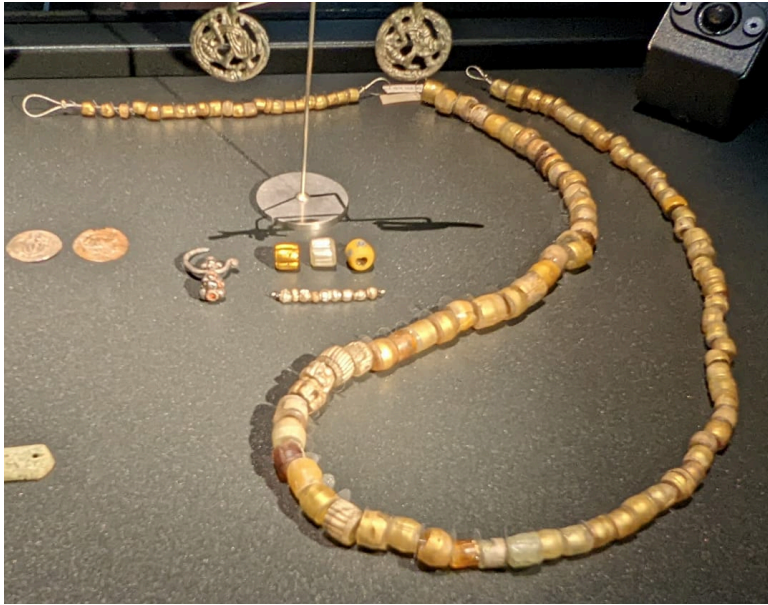
1. Space your treasures equally around a circle
2. If you want to showcase some special "beads" you can make a pendant by using some extra yarn (and other "beads" and tying it in a little loop.
3. Place "beads" across the circle from each-other by color/size (this is part of why I like Multigrain Cheerios or Froot Loops as beads)
4. Continue placing bead pairs until you run out of space.
5. Tape the end of your string to the table or tie a larger treasure to the end to prevent frustrating accidents!
6. Begin stringing your beads and treasures from one point and continue in the same direction.
7. Wear your necklace!

Much of my information comes from [TheVikingAnswerLady.com](http://TheVikingAnswerLady.com)

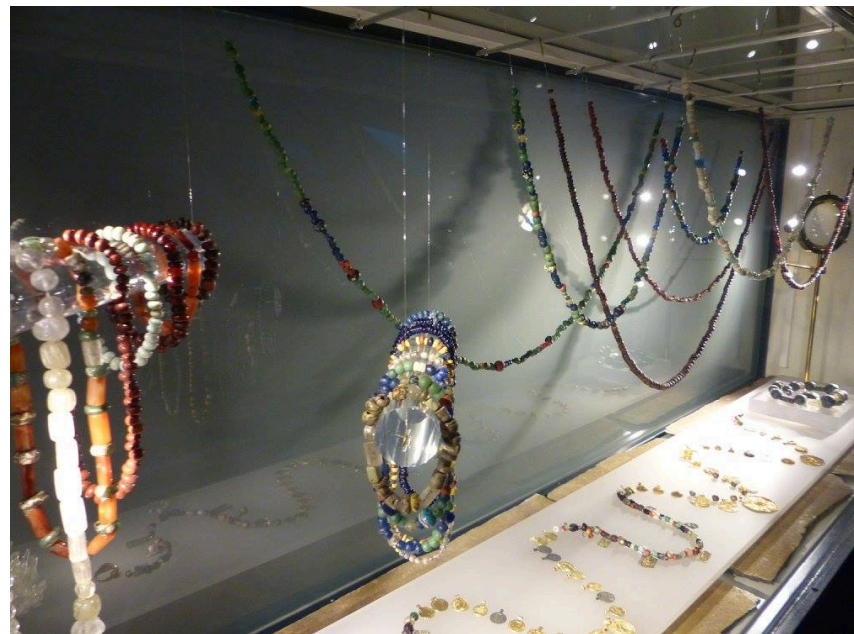
**Special thanks to Baroness Isobel Bickerstaff of the East (Lesley Brann) for the attached photos from her trips to museums in Drachenwald.**

**Danish National Museum**

Photos by Lesley Brann



**National Museum, Oslo**  
photos by Lesley Brann



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