

# Make A Gorget

In the Southeast, gorgets were ornaments which were hung around the neck by a string or leather strap.

Gorgets came in different shapes and sizes and were usually made from stones or turtle and marine shells.

The most elaborate gorgets had intricate designs and symbols carved into them. These were usually worn and prized by the chief and other social elites.



## What Can Gorgets Tell Us?

The elaborate gorgets of the social elite are covered with symbols. When deciphered, gorgets can be “read” almost like a book. They can tell us about the religious beliefs of the wearers, myths and legends, or act as a history book of sorts. For example, the gorget to the left tells us that the people of Etowah (Cartersville, GA) were unfriendly with the people of Moundville (Alabama).

## Now Make Your Own!

Now that you have learned about gorgets, it is time to make your own. If you wanted people to know something about you in the future, what would you put on your gorget?

### **Directions:**

- 1) Draw your symbols and images on a paper plate
- 2) Punch two holes at the top and run a piece of yarn or string through and tie the ends together
- 3) Wear your gorget around your neck!

## Common Symbols

