

Make a Berry Bracelet

Make a colorful bracelet to represent different berry species in Alaska!



Over 40 species of berries grow in Alaska. Some species only grow in specific regions, while others grow all over the state. Many people and animals depend on berries as a food source.

Left: From [Berries: Iñupiat Traditions](#), directed by Sarah Betcher and Steffi Ickert-Bond.

Materials Needed:

Pony beads (suggested colors: red, orange, blue, black, purple, maroon, green), pipecleaner, scissors.

Instructions:

Step 1: Choose different colors of beads, with each color representing a different berry. Here are suggested colors:

Blueberry: **Blue** Lowbush Cranberry: **Red**

Rosehips: **Maroon** Raspberry: **Purple**

Cloudberry: **Orange** Crowberry: **Black**

Highbush Cranberry: **Red (Translucent)**

Step 2: Thread your berry beads on a pipecleaner. Add **green** beads to represent leaves. You can arrange your beads in any order, and add as many or as few as you want. Be creative!

Step 3: Twist the ends of your pipecleaner together. Trim the ends with scissors if needed. Wear your berry bracelet! *Caution: The ends of pipecleaners are sharp. Be careful not to poke yourself!*



Extension: Try making a bracelet representing different berry conditions (unripe, ripe, dry, rotten, damaged). Use a different color of bead for each condition. Find data on berry conditions at the Winterberry website:

sites.google.com/alaska.edu/winterberry/view-the-data

Alaska Berries: Fun Facts

Note: Many kinds of berries grow in Alaska. This guide shows seven species commonly used by people and animals.

Bog Blueberry

Vaccinium uliginosum



Did You Know? There are three species of blueberries in Alaska: bog blueberry, early blueberry, and Alaska blueberry.

Lowbush Cranberry

[Lingonberry]

Vaccinium vitis-idaea



Did You Know? Lowbush cranberries are a favorite food of spruce grouse.

Rosehip [Prickly Rose]

Rosa acicularis



Did You Know? Rosehips make tasty jam, but make sure to remove the seeds first, as their long hairs can irritate the intestines.

Red Raspberry

Rubus idaeus



Did You Know? Red raspberries are among the most popular berries consumed in the United States.

Cloudberry [Salmonberry]

Rubus chamaemorus



Did You Know? Some people call cloudberry "salmonberries", but true salmonberries are a different species, *Rubus spectabilis*.

Crowberry

(*Empetrum nigrum*)



Did You Know? The Yup'ik people of Southwest Alaska traditionally use crowberries as a dye for coloring grass baskets.

Highbush Cranberry

(*Viburnum edule*)



Did You Know? If picked before the first frost, highbush cranberries are more acidic and have a better flavor.

Did You Know?

You can contribute to a citizen science project by tracking berry plants! Investigate how shifting seasons are affecting berries in Alaska.

Learn more about the Winterberry Project:
sites.google.com/alaska.edu/winterberry/home