

## Sailors' Valentines

Create a piece of art for somebody special to you, just like sailors in the old days did!

### Materials

- Papier Mache boxes or piece of poster board
- Shells
- Glue
- Markers
- Pencil

### Process

1. Sketch the design you want your Valentine to look like, use your pencil to mark where your borders will be and where different shapes and colors in the design will go.
2. Glue your shells carefully to your valentine
3. Let your project dry



### So What's Happening?

The story of the *Sailors' Valentine* begins in the early nineteenth century, when it was customary for sailors, after returning home from long voyages at sea, to come bearing sentimental gifts for wives, sweethearts, daughters and mothers. These works of art were often made in *octagonal* wooden boxes and were usually two sided and hinged, covered with a glass overlay, and closed with a heart shaped lock. When closed, the shell work is hidden and the glass protected so that the Valentines could be stored safely for travel. Sailors' Valentines, known in their day simply as "shell *mosaics*," were among the most common gifts.

### Vocabulary

- **Sailors' Valentine** – A piece of art made or bought for somebody special by sailors while away from home; usually made of shells. A souvenir.
- **Octagonal** – an eight sided shape
- **Mosaic** - picture or design made with small pieces of colored material such as glass or tile stuck onto a surface

### For More Information

Sailors' Valentine Studio. "History." Last Modified 2011.

<http://www.sailorsvalentinstudio.com/history.asp>