Beaded patterns

This activity allows students to explore patterns using beads.

#### Materials

Coloured beads and string (or elastic)

#### Method

1. Give students 12 beads (3 different colours, 4 beads of each colour)
2. Think, pair, share: ask students to created a pattern with their beads, pair up with the person next to them to compare their patterns and then share with the class what their patterns were. Encourage students to communicate comparisons between the patterns. What were the similarities and differences amongst the patterns.
3. Students are to create and record as many different patterns using their 12 beads.
4. Once students have explored all of the possible patterns using the 12 beads provide students with more beads to create their own piece of jewellery e.g. bracelet or necklace.

#### Discussion

To check students’ level of understanding ask students the following questions as they are participating in the activity:

* Describe your pattern to me.
* How do you know it is a pattern?
* What is repeating in your pattern?
* What would come next in your pattern?
* What would come before your first bead if the pattern was extended in the opposite direction?