Student and Teacher Resources
Art and Spirituality: Navajo Silver and Turquoise Jewelry

Art and spirituality are connected in many ways. Many cultures create a variety of artworks and objects to support their spiritual practice. In this video, we will explore this concept by learning about the significance of turquoise in Navajo culture and the origins and art of Navajo silversmithing. We will also examine a silver squash blossom necklace from the Barnes collection.

Vocabulary

1. **Arid** (of land or a climate) having little or no rain; too dry or barren to support vegetation
2. **Skin Acidity** the skin's barrier is slightly acidic for a reason: to keep moisture in and bacteria out
3. **Initiation** a rite of passage marking entrance or acceptance into a group or society. It could also be a formal admission to adulthood in a community.
4. **Talisman** connects the possessor with the spiritual world to provide functions such as healing and protection
5. **Moors** The Moors were the Muslim inhabitants of the Maghreb, the Iberian Peninsula, Sicily, and Malta during the Middle Ages. The ruled Spain for 800 years.
6. **Navajo Nation** The Navajo Nation is a Native American indigenous tribe covering about 17.5 million acres, occupying portions of northeastern Arizona, southeastern Utah, and northwestern New Mexico in the United States.

7. **Silversmithing** a technique where objects are fabricated from sterling or fine silver; including trophies, ornaments, utensils, and of course jewelry

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**More Resources**

- World Mythology: Rain Deities
  

- Turquoise Crystal Healing
  
  https://www.healingwithcrystals.net.au/turquoise.html

- Silversmithing
  

- Moor Influence on Navajo Aesthetic
  
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwIoiHRTI8Y

- Indigenous Representation in Fashion
  

- *Turquoise Jewelry* (book) by Nancy Schiffer
  
  Turquoise Jewelry: Schiffer, Nancy: 9780764328435: Amazon.com: Books