

Reliable Romans: serpent bracelet



The Romans loved jewellery, especially solid gold bracelets, armlets and rings. Commonly these would be worn by women.

The bracelets and armlets were usually worn on the wrist or upper arms, often in pairs.

Bracelets and armlets in the form of a coiled serpent (snake) were very popular. The serpent was thought by the Romans to be a protection against evil.

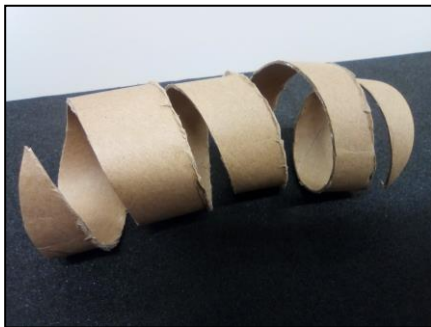
This inspired today's craft to make a serpent bracelet.

Picture, above: Pair of gold snake bracelets from the Walters Art Museum. Image courtesy of Wikipedia (Anonymous attribution): https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_jewelry#/media/File:Roman_-_Pair_of_Snake_Bracelets_-_Walters_57528,_57529_-_Group.jpg

To make a serpent bracelet, you will need: a cardboard roll, a pencil, scissors, gold paint and a paintbrush. **Optional:** acrylic gems or paint (to decorate), glue stick.

Instructions:

1. In pencil, draw a serpent on the cardboard roll – it is a spiral shape.



2. Cut around the spiral (please see the picture, left). This is quite difficult so you may need an adult to help. Don't worry if the edges are jagged or frayed as you can tidy them up and glue them back together once you've finished cutting the spiral.

3. Using scissors, shape one end of the spiral into the head of a serpent (snake).

4. Apply the gold paint to the outside of the cardboard roll. You need only apply a thin layer of paint for a rich gold finish. Leave to dry.
5. Decorate with acrylic gems – use two gems for the serpent's eyes and, if you wish, you can also make a pattern on its body with other gems. If you don't have gems, use paint instead. If necessary, leave to dry.
6. Your serpent bracelet is complete – wear it on a wrist or an upper arm (armlet) to ward off evil! You might like to make another so you have a pair.

