



Necklace

Date

early to mid 20th Century

Medium

Cowrie shell and plant fiber

Description

Necklaces play a crucial role in decoration in New Guinea for both men and women, especially because status is determined by how much material wealth you show on your body, including all forms of jewelry and male ornamentations of war such as feathers and shells. Necklaces can be made up of cowrie shells or mother-of-pearl, boar's teeth or tusks, dog teeth, and even human teeth.

Dimensions

16 × 4 × 1/2 in. (40.6 × 10.2 × 1.3 cm)