

# Crafting Sailors' Valentines

**Parent or adult supervision is recommended.**

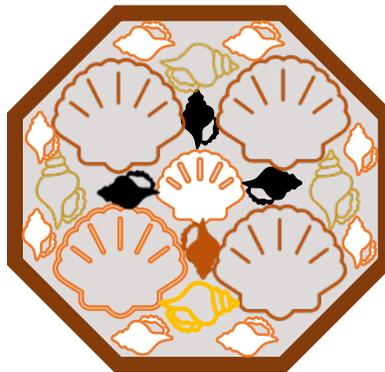
Sailors' valentines were originally created in the 1800s from seashells and eight sided wooden cases with a glass cover. Many sailors' valentines were purchased in Barbados, a place where sailors sought supplies and ship repairs. After spending a long time at sea, they brought these romantic and beautiful souvenirs home to their loved ones.

## SUPPLIES

Shells, Glue, Shape,  
and a Craft Stick like  
a popsicle stick.

See tips below!

The Rules: Be Yourself, Respect  
Your Materials, Have Fun, and  
Help Clean Up!



## Directions

Start by choosing the shells you like. Using the craft stick, spread a thick layer of glue all over your shape, or if you drew a design first, put the glue in one section at a time. Lay in the shells. Large shells will need extra glue. Wait for the sailors' valentine to dry. Glue washes off easily.

**TIPS:** You can make a sailors' valentine using shells from the seashore or purchasing them in bulk online. All you need is a shape to glue the shells to. This can be a tiny paper plate, a chip board shape you buy online or at craft stores, or one you make out of cardboard. The kind of glue you use is important! Use **Aleene's Original Tacky Glue**. It holds the shells well! You can arrange your shells randomly or by shape or size, or you can draw a design in pencil on your shape and glue the shells onto the design.

Always remember when creating  
that you, the artist, decide how you  
want to make your design, and you  
can introduce new ideas, if you like!



Here is a heart-shaped sailors' valentine we made at the museum using a piece of chipboard that we purchased online. Chipboard comes in many shapes and sizes including turtles, fish, and hexagons! ENJOY!



Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum Maritime Crafts for Kids

