## **Binary Code & Indigenous Loom Beading**

What happens when you combine computer language and Indigenous beading? Blending traditional and contemporary forms of communication creates a story. The story might be a name and what it means in another language or a tweet or message belief or?

Beading has long been a part of West Coast Indigenous culture. Each group has their own type of beading.

**ASCII** (American Standard Code for Information Interchange) is the most common format for text files in computers and on the Internet. In an **ASCII** file, each alphabetic, numeric, or special character is represented with a 7-bit binary number.

## Start with the Basics:

Create a message or your name using ASCII code. You will need the **ASCII Binary code table** to help you with coding. The end product can be converted into a keychain for your backpack, bracelet to keep or give away, any other ideas...

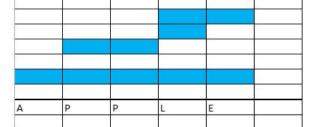
On graph paper, draw a line near the bottom, leaving a couple of lines for writing.

Write your message across the bottom, just below the drawn horizontal line.

Each cell above will be the line of code.

For example, A = 0100 0001. Colour in every cell that has a '1'.

Set up your loom. Anything can be used. We used a box so that we can store additional supplies if we're not done. For 8 beads you will need to string 9 warp threads.



Work with a comfortable length of thread on your long needle.

Choose your two colours of beads. Use needle to pick up the beads in the order of your graph design.

Starting on your left side, place the needle with the beads under the warp threads.

Using your finger underneath the row of beads, push each bead in-between the warp threads.

Take your needle and thread through the beads holding the beads in place.

Here is an example of a completed one. Cut the warp threads. Tie the first warp thread to the next one and continue to the end. Tie another row. Cut extra lengths.

Add a bit of glue (we used E6000 glue) to the knots.

Cover ends with a folded piece of cloth or other

material. For the top, include a keychain ring in the material if using it as keychain.



