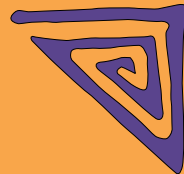


WORDS TO KNOW

Did you learn any new words today? All of the red words in this Family Guide will help you solve the crossword puzzle.



1. Layered fabric cut and hemmed to reveal designs

2. Hand-stitched patterns on fabric

3. The shaped piece of a blouse fitted around the neck and shoulders

4. A brightly colored textile sewn by Kuna woman

5. Sculpted soft clay hardened by heat

6. A hollow container of a specific shape that adds form to material put in it

7. One half mirrors the other half

8. Smaller pieces of fabric stitched on top of a larger piece

9. Native people in Panama

10. A country in Central America

11. Method of making gold jewelry using a mold

12. A design that repeats

Word Bank
Panama • Kuna mola • ceramic lost-wax casting pattern • balance reverse appliqué appliqué • yoke embroidery • mold

DRAW

Sketch what you think the other half of the mola would look like.



Family Day: Explore the Arts of Panama
Sat., September 20
Noon – 4 p.m.

Museum Nights
Thurs., November 13
6 – 9 p.m.

Visit the Harn's calendar on our website for future programs!

IMAGE CREDITS

All molas are made by the Kuna People of Panama and are from the Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special and Area Studies Collections, George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida, unless noted otherwise.

Cover, top
Mola with Fish-Headed Pelicans
1960

Cover, bottom
Unknown, Panama
Feline with Open Mouth Whistle
n.d.

Inside, left page, "look"
Molita with Fish
20th century

Inside, left page, "find," top
Mola with Iguanas
20th century

Inside, left page, "find," bottom
Shark Design Pedestal Bowl
ca. AD 1000
Loan from the Orlando Museum of Art; Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Glen E. Murphy and Family

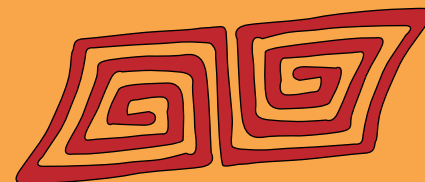
Inside, left page, bottom
Blouse with Chickens Mola
c. 1940

Inside, right page, "jewelry," left
Deer Pendant, c. AD 800
On loan from the Orlando Museum of Art; Gift of Howard Phillips, by exchange

Inside, right page, "jewelry," right
Unknown, Panama
Nose Ring, 800 - 1000 AD
On loan from the Orlando Museum of Art; Gift of Howard Phillips, by exchange

Inside, right page, "think"
Unknown, Panama
Mola with A Mother and Child
c. 1960

Back
Mola with Flute Players
c. 2000



Patterns Past & Present: Arts of Panama Family Guide for Ages 8+



CLUED IN

What does this mola tell you about the Kuna people and where they live?

Panama is a country in Central America. The native **Kuna** people live in the tropical coastal area.

The Kuna women of Panama create brightly colored textiles called **molos**. Molos are a sign of independence, pride and tradition.

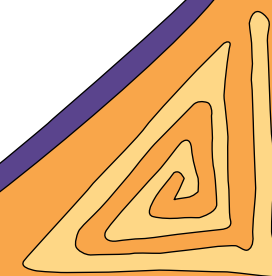
Ceramics are an important art of ancient Panama. These objects are made of soft clay and then hardened in an oven or fire.



FIND Circle the animals as you find them in the exhibition.

Deer Shark Crab
Cat Armadillo Frog
Iguana Scorpion Bird

Which animals were challenging to find? Why?



This exhibition is made possible by the George A. Smathers Libraries, Copa Airlines, The University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies and the US Department of Education with additional support from the Harn Program Endowment.

FREE ADMISSION
harn.ufl.edu
3529 Hull Road

HARN MUSEUM OF ART
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

LOOK

Compare the molita on the right, a young girl's practice mola, to molas in the exhibition. Find three differences.

HINT: Kuna women start learning how to sew small molitas at a young age. They practice and take pride in this work. Over time they begin to sew larger molas and these show more detail and beauty.



FIND Look for the **similarities** between Molas and ceramics in the exhibition.

1. Several different colors
2. Shapes and colors in combinations that repeat (**pattern**)
3. Lines, shapes and figures are arranged the same on both sides when cut in half (**balance**)

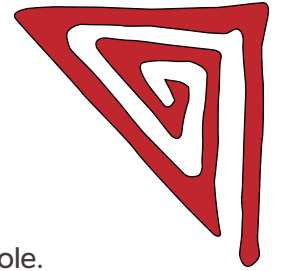


MOLA: HOW IT'S MADE ✂

1. **Baste.** Several layers of colored fabric are temporarily sewn together.
2. **Sketch.** A design is sketched on the top layer of fabric with a pencil.
3. **Cut and Hem.** The top layer is cut following the design. The outline of the fabric is folded under itself and the fold is sewn onto the next layer, hiding the stitches. This process is repeated multiple times. (**reverse appliqué**).
4. **Add Detail.** Smaller pieces of fabric are sewn on top (**appliqué**) and hand-stitched patterns are added (**embroidery**).
5. **Make to Wear.** The two panels are then sewn on to a **yoke**, fabric that is shaped to fit around a neck and shoulders. Sleeves are added to make a blouse.

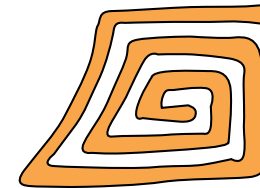


GOLD JEWELRY: HOW IT'S MADE



Lost-wax casting:

- 1) A wax model of a piece of jewelry is made.
- 2) The model is covered in clay except for a small hole.
- 3) The clay is heated and hardens around the wax model, melting it and creating a ceramic **mold** of the object.
- 4) The wax is poured out of the small hole and liquid gold is poured in.
- 5) Once it cools, the ceramic mold is broken to retrieve the piece of gold jewelry inside.



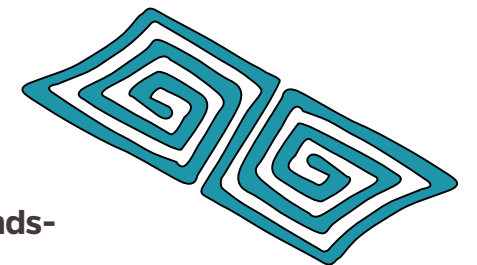
Nose rings are made of cast gold or a mixture of gold and copper called tumbaga. Nose rings, like molas, are worn by Kuna women as a sign of culture. The large and detailed nose ring, located right, was likely worn by a chief to show his rank.



THINK Molas may represent legends, daily life or history of the Kuna people. If you made a mola that celebrated who you are, what would you include?



LOOK Describe what you see in the mola to the right.



Visit the Bishop Study Center to explore real molas in the Hands-on Collection and see the mola-making process, step by step.