

## Discussion Questions

### Before Viewing

Students will watch Navajo/Hopi artist Jesse Monongya's segment, who discusses his inspiration and process for creating jewelry inspired by the natural world and the Southwest landscape. As they watch the video have students consider the following:

1. What inspired the artist's design (how the artist came up with his idea for the design)?
2. What kind of symbolism is included in Jesse Monongya's jewelry?

Watch the episode at [pbs.org/craft-in-america/tv-series/jewelry](https://pbs.org/craft-in-america/tv-series/jewelry) or [craftinamerica.org/episode/jewelry](https://craftinamerica.org/episode/jewelry).

### After Viewing

1. Jesse Monongya's jewelry is informed by Navajo and Hopi ancestry and traditions. How is ancestry important in Native American culture?
2. Monongya says if you listen to his story, everything has to do with spirituality. Discuss what he means by this statement.
3. What are the elements of a finished piece of jewelry? What do the different elements represent in Native American culture?
4. How is color used in Monongya's jewelry and what is its significance?
5. What can the jewelry tell you about the artist (photographer, painter, sculptor, etc.)? What do you see that makes you say that?
6. Discuss what Jesse Monongya means by this statement.  
"The only way to make things beautiful is to be in tune with God and yourself. You can never just say 'I'm going to pick up a stone and make something beautiful.'  
- Jesse Monongya
7. If you had to describe Jesse Monongya's jewelry to someone who could not see it, what words would you use? What does it look like?
8. If you could ask Jesse Monongya a question, what would you ask him?