

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# How much is my wampum belt worth?

What is a wampum belt worth? When Sacagawea was alive, Native Americans and European settlers used wampum as a form of money, just like we use dollar bills and coins today. At that time 6 white = 1 penny and 3 blue beads = 1 penny, so they could tell by looking at a belt how much it was worth. How did they do that? First, they would count the blue beads and then they would count the white beads. Next, they would use the ratio to determine the value of each color. Finally, they would add the two amounts together.

For example, if a belt contains 200 white beads and 200 blue beads, the value would be:

200 blue beads =  $200 / 3 = 66.7$  pennies = 67 pennies

200 white beads =  $200 / 6 = 33.3$  pennies = 33 pennies

(Don't forget! Calculations that end with a .5 or higher should round up. Calculations that end with a .4 or lower should round down.)

Total =  $67 + 33$  pennies = 100 pennies = \$1.00

Design your own wampum belt! Using the grid below, create a pattern for your belt by using blue and white spaces. When you have a design that you like, use the equation to determine how much your belt would be worth. Don't forget to show your work!


\_\_\_\_\_ Blue Beads

\_\_\_\_\_ White Beads

My wampum belt is worth: \_\_\_\_\_