

CHAPTER 2: GREAT ZIMBABWE—
A MYSTERY AND A WONDER

INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY

Name _____

Date _____

Making a Copper Bracelet

In the Middle Ages, the people of Great Zimbabwe, in what is now the country of Zimbabwe, built large, mysterious stone-walled enclosures. These are the largest ancient stone structures in southern Africa.

In the ruins of Great Zimbabwe were found copper and iron wire. People used them to make deco-

orative bangles to wear around the wrists, forearms, ankles, and calves. The remains of one female excavated in a ruin near Great Zimbabwe had more than 4½ pounds of wire on each leg. The local Venda people wear similar ornaments today.

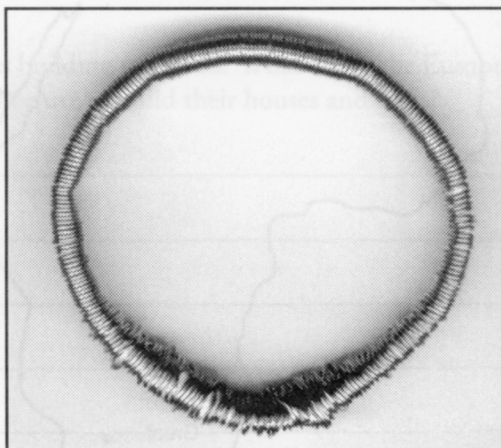
- ◆ *Objective:* To make a copper wire bracelet
- ◆ *Time to Complete Activity:* 2–3 hours
- ◆ *Materials Needed:* Medium-weight cardboard (a paper egg carton works well), masking tape, a 50-foot roll of 20-gauge copper wire, wire cutters, scissors

Directions:

- Cut a piece of the cardboard 10 inches long and 1 inch wide.
- Fold the cardboard in half lengthwise.
- Wrap masking tape tightly around and around the cardboard strip, leaving about 1 inch from one end of cardboard free of tape. Repeat so you have two layers of masking tape. This is your base to wrap the wire around.
- Bend cardboard strip gently into a curved shape, but do not close it yet.
- Starting about 1 inch from one end of the strip, wrap copper wire around and around the strip, covering as much of the cardboard as possible.
- When you are 1 inch from the other end of the strip, stop wrapping the wire and cut it with a wire cutter.
- Insert the end of the strip with masking tape into the end without the tape. Because you folded the cardboard over, there will be an opening into

which you can insert the end with the masking tape.

- Pull off about 10 feet of wire and roll it into a loose ball.
- Using the ball of wire, wind the copper wire around the remaining part of the bangle that doesn't have wire on it.



A Copper Wire Bracelet

