

**Thomas Becket**  
**murder and the**  
**making of a saint**

## Create a pilgrim badge

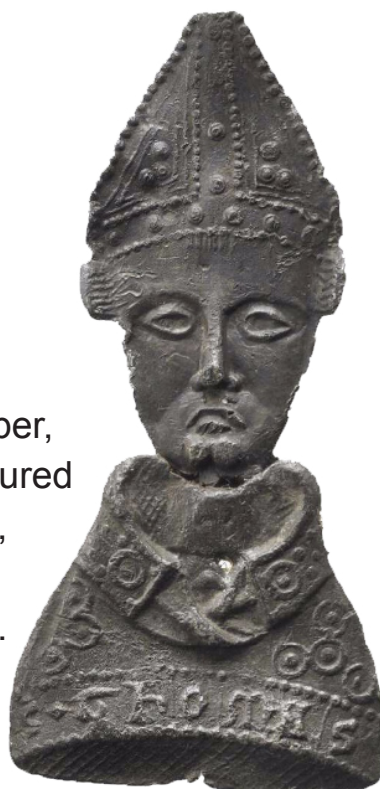
### Who was Thomas Becket?

Thomas Becket was a leading political and religious figure in 12th-century England. Becket had a bitter dispute with the king and was brutally and publicly murdered. The story of his murder became legendary and he was made a saint. Thomas Becket was one of medieval Europe's most popular saints and his shrine at Canterbury was a major centre of pilgrimage.

Pilgrim badges come from the medieval period and were worn by people who travelled to Christian pilgrimage sites. The badges were usually produced cheaply in moulds so that everyone could afford them. Pilgrims wore them on their clothing and hats or around their necks to show where they had been on pilgrimage.

### Materials you will need to create your pendant

Two sheets of A4 white paper,  
two different pieces of coloured  
paper, gluestick, safety pin,  
pencil, tape, card from a  
cereal packet and scissors.



*Pilgrim badge of a bust of Thomas Becket. England, c. 1100-1150.*

## Be inspired

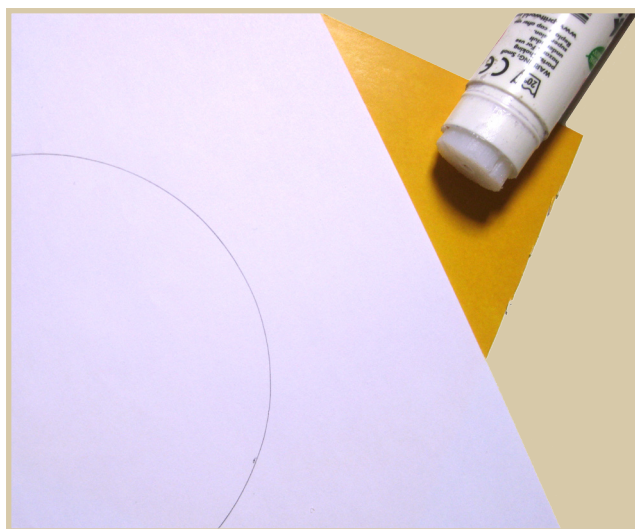
Use the picture of the Thomas Becket pilgrim badge as a starting point for your design. Your design might be inspired by Thomas or be based on a place or object that you'd like to see on your own pilgrimage. You are going to use an artform called 'paper cuts' to create your pilgrim badge.



## Quick draw

Start by drawing around something round, such as a bowl or tin of food, on your A4 sheet of white paper. The bigger the circle, the more space for your design and the easier it is.

Stick your circle to your piece of card. This is the base of your badge. Now you can start your design.



## What are paper cuts?

A paper cut is a traditional artform, using just scissors and paper, made famous by the French artist Henri Matisse.

## Now the fun begins!

Using your two coloured sheets of paper and a sheet of white paper, create your own colourful paper cut design. It can be as simple or detailed as you want.

Start with a simple silhouette of the main shape of your design and use the other colours for all the details.



Once you have finished your badge, cut around the circle.

Use a piece of tape to attach your safety pin to the back of your badge. Ask an adult for help if you find this tricky.



## And ta-da! It is finished

Pin it on your top and wear it with pride.



Don't forget to ask your adult to share your designs with us on Twitter @britishmuseum #ThomasBecket