

squash blossom necklace

Did you know ...?

The "squash blossoms" on the necklace are probably modeled after pomegranate blossoms. This design was introduced by the Spanish, who brought the plant to this hemisphere.

The pomegranate blossom was a favorite design for the Moors, who occupied Spain from 711 to 1492. The pendant on the necklace, called a *naja*, is also a Moorish (Arab) sign to ward off the evil eye. They placed it on their horses' bridles.

The Navajo use a rainbow as an encircling protection. The *naja* or horseshoe shape looks like the arc of a rainbow and often the pendant is portrayed as a rainbow.