

RAFT IDEAS

Topics: Native American Art, Crafts, Patterns

Materials List

- ✓ Sticks (craft sticks preferred for beginners)
- ✓ Yarn
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Optional: glue

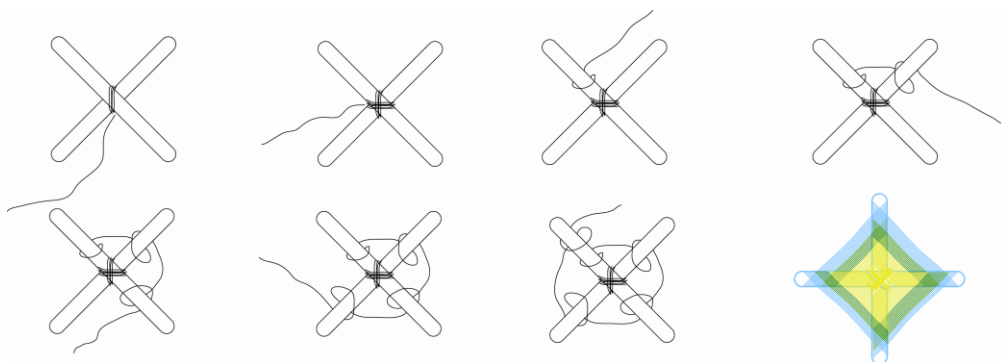
This activity can be used to teach:

- Art, society, and culture (National Visual Arts Standards: Connecting: Grades K-8, 11.1)



Ojo de Dios

A great exploration in Native American yarn weaving



These yarn weavings have magical and ritual significance to the Huichol peoples of Northwestern Mexico, and the craft has grown into a popular activity throughout North America.

To Do and Notice

1. Hold two sticks of the same length in a cross or plus sign.
2. Tie a loop of yarn around the place where the two sticks cross. Wrap the yarn several times in both directions around the cross. Alternate assembly: First glue the two sticks together and where the sticks cross glue the end of a length of yarn.
3. Wrapping the yarn once around one stick (see illustration).
4. Proceeding in a clockwise direction, wrap the yarn once around each stick. After wrapping each loop, pull the yarn tightly towards the center.
5. Continue wrapping until the ends of the sticks are reached. Optional: Change colors as desired by cutting the yarn and tying in a new yarn color.

The Content Behind the Activity

To the Huichol peoples of Northwestern Mexico, the "tsikuri" or eye of God symbolizes the ability to understand the unknowable and is used as a sacred ritual offering when a child is born. The center part of eye is made by a father at the time of the birth of his child. Each year, more yarn is added to represent an additional eye in the yarn weaving. When the child turns five, the "tsikuri" is complete.

Taking it Further

- Make an Ojo de Dios using three or four sticks.
- Add tassels
- Research the Huichol of Mexico to learn more about the cultural significance of the Ojo de Dios
- Explore other types of weaving - see RAFT Idea Sheets: *Prism Heddle Loom*, *Bead Weaving*, and *File Folder Weaving*,

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=248 for more resources!)