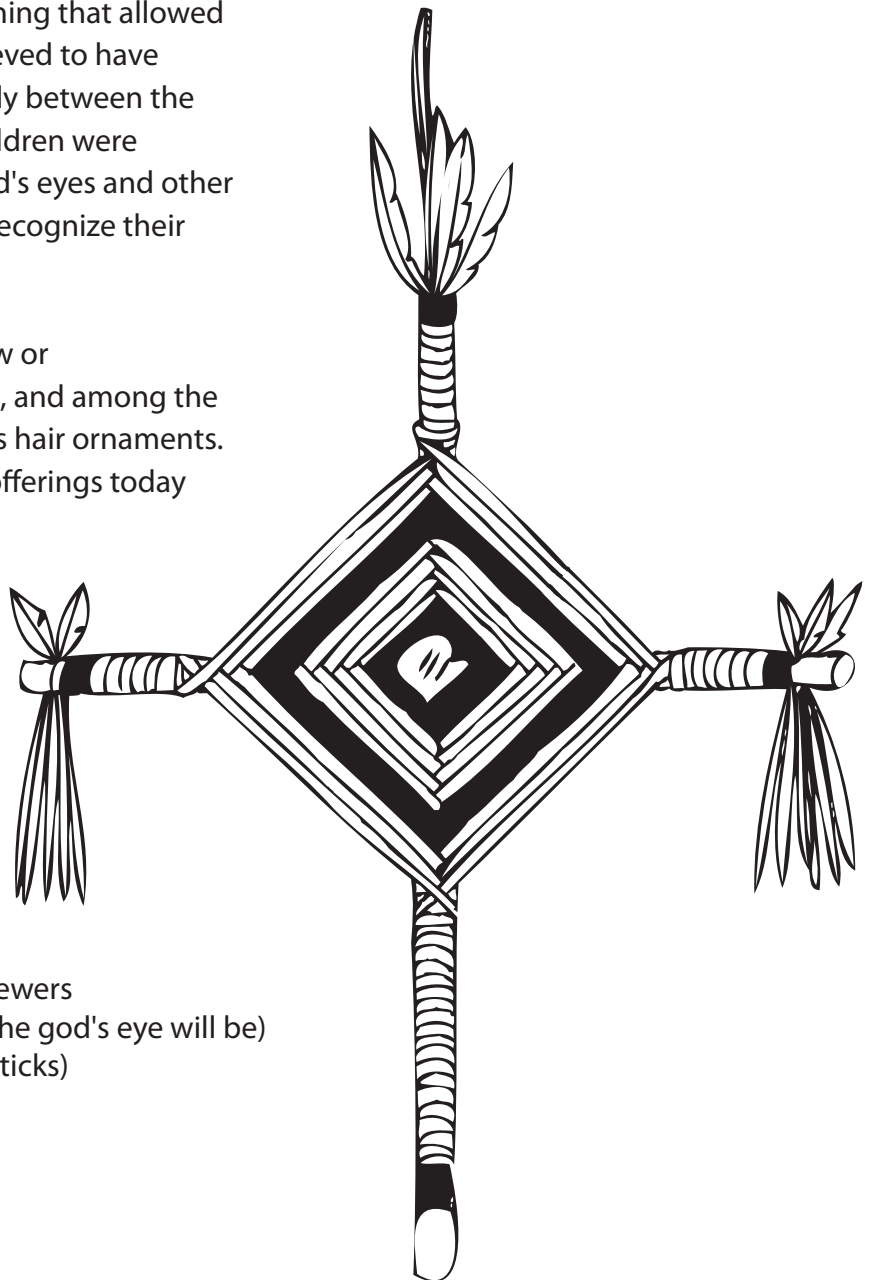


God's Eye

The Huichol believed that crafting an object was a way to get in touch with the spiritual world. For protection from the uncertainties of the future, the Huichol sometimes made decorative, ceremonial shields with colored yarn and sticks. These shields were called god's eyes because through them a god might keep a watchful eye over the people who made them.

To help the god see better, Huichol people wove a pupil of black yarn or a mirrored disk in to the god's eye. Where the sticks crossed, they left an opening that allowed shamans (religious leaders who were believed to have powers of healing) and gods to travel easily between the spirit and earth worlds. Young Huichol children were guided on a mock pilgrimage carrying god's eyes and other offerings so that the gods might learn to recognize their faces.

The Hupa wove similar charms out of straw or yucca and hung them over babies' cradles, and among the Pueblo groups, women wore small ones as hair ornaments. Some Southwester groups still make the offerings today and sell small god's eyes to tourists.



MATERIALS

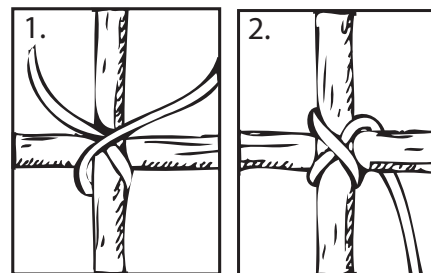
- 2 straight branches, sticks, dowels, or skewers
(the longer the sticks, the bigger the god's eye will be)
- Sandpaper (if using branches or rough sticks)
- Balls of different colored yarn
- Scissors
- Small mirror or foil disk
- White glue
- Small feather (optional)

God's Eye

DIRECTIONS

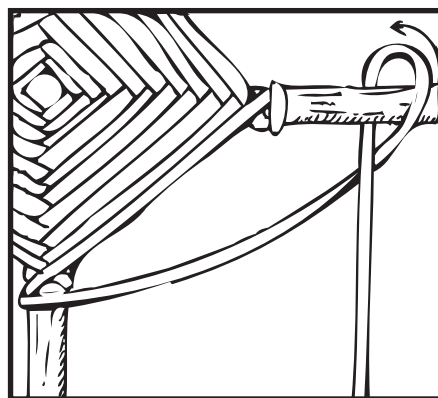
1. If needed, clean your sticks to remove any twigs and use sandpaper to smooth any rough spots.
2. For a diamond shaped god's eye, use sticks of different lengths. For a square one, make sure your sticks are the same length.

3. Use a piece of yarn about the length of one of the sticks to hold the sticks together. Cross the sticks and bind them together tightly by crisscrossing the yarn over the sticks several times (see figures 1 & 2). Tie a knot to hold them firmly in place. Snip off any loose ends.

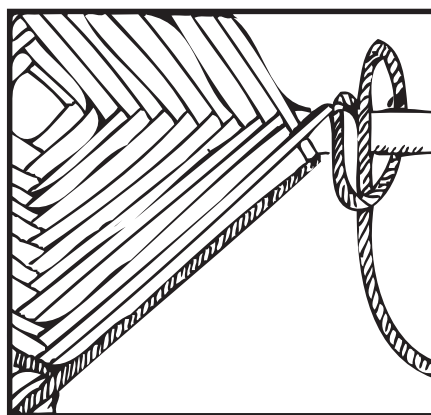


Criss-cross sticks with yarn to bind them.

Take one ball of yarn and connect it to your god's eye by knotting the loose end onto one of the sticks close to the center. Now cross the yarn over the next bar then circle back underneath and over the top again. Now do this again on the next crossbar. Continue to wrap each crossbar, always working in the same direction. The yarn will stretch between the crossbars and form the design.



4. To change to the next color, snip the strand you are working with, leaving a one inch piece. Tuck the small piece through the last wrap on the crossbar and pull tightly. Snip off the loose end. Tie on the next color and begin wrapping.
5. Continue to wrap the god's eye in the same way, changing colors periodically, until you reach the size you want. When you are finished, tie the end off the same way you did when changing colors.



6. Glue a small mirror or foil disk over the center of the cross.
7. To make tassels for the ends of the sticks, wrap yarn loosely around your fingers 5 or 6 times. Slip a small piece of yarn through the top of the loops you have created and tie a knot around all strings. Snip the bottom of the loops. Tie the tassel to the god's eye.
8. Make a small loop of yarn on the top of the god's eye to hang it.