



Motivation

Students will create their own Ojo de Dios, God's Eye, with wooden sticks and brightly colored yarn. All students will learn the basic technique for wrapping yarns around the wooden sticks. Older students will learn advanced yarn-wrapping techniques and learn how to combine and attach multiple Ojo de Dios sizes.

Student Objectives

- Students will learn about the history and the symbolism associated with the Ojo de Dios.
- Students will learn about their modern interpretation, their continued popularity and the reinvention by today's artists and makers.
- Students will create a God's Eye using wood sticks and yarn.

Historical and Cultural Connection

Invented by the Huichol, an indigenous people of western Mexico, as a symbol for health, fortune, and a good life. Typically made with wooden sticks and brightly colored yarn, Ojo de Dios are characterized by four points of the "eye" believed to represent fire, earth, air, and water, while the center was said to be a portal between the spirit world and the mortal world.

Vocabulary

Arm: One part of the frame of sticks.

Eye: Center of the skeleton (frame) where the wrap begins and continues in contrasting colors to make the rest of the weave.

Skeleton: Frame of sticks (2, 3, or 4) on which the yarn is wrapped.

Wrap: Winding the yarn around the skeleton (frame).

Supplies Per Student

- Assorted Yarn (any colors, but traditional colors are black, white, blue, red, green, yellow, and purple).
- 2-3 pieces of foraged sticks or branches, wood dowels, or wooden coffee stir sticks (6-12" in length):
 - Two sticks for younger students.
 - Two or three for older students.

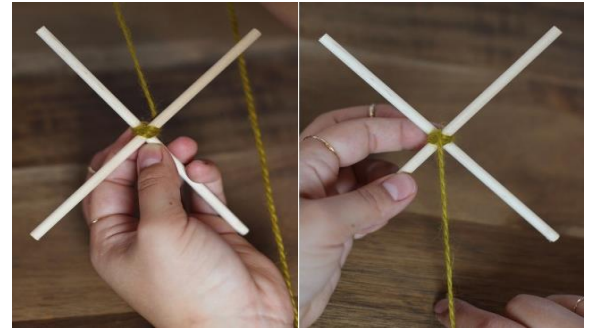
Supplies Shared

Scissors

Making the Skeleton

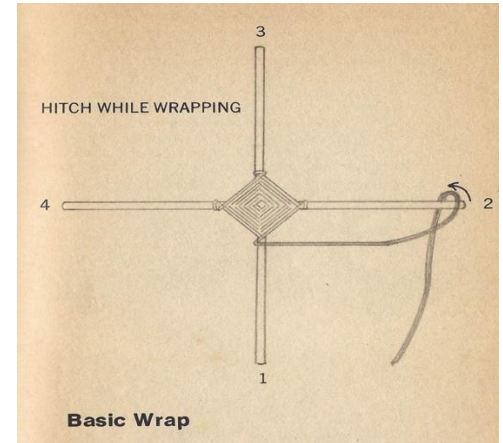
1. Wrap yarn 3- 5 times around center of stick skeleton diagonally and then another 3-5 times around center of sticks diagonally in the opposite direction to form an "X" pattern. (Fig. A)

A



Basic Wrap

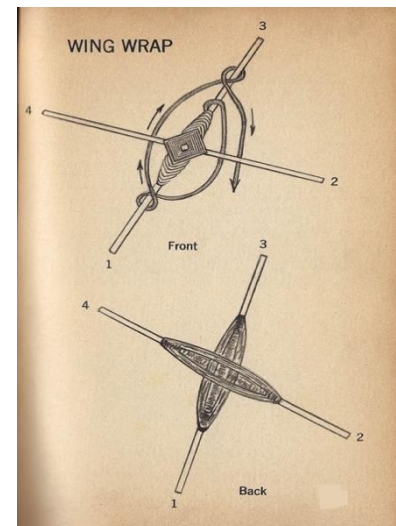
1. Continuing with the same yarn, begin the basic wrap by holding the skeleton in left hand and wrap with right hand. (Fig. B)
2. Keep wrapping around each arm as shown until color change in yarn is desired.
3. When finished weaving with one color, simply change color cutting off the current yarn leaving about 1 ½" - 2":
 - Tie the old yarn and new yarn together securing with a double knot.
 - Continue to wrap:
 - Always start a new color on a different stick from the one you just wrapped.
 - For Left-handers, do the basic wrap in the opposite direction.



B

Wing Wrap

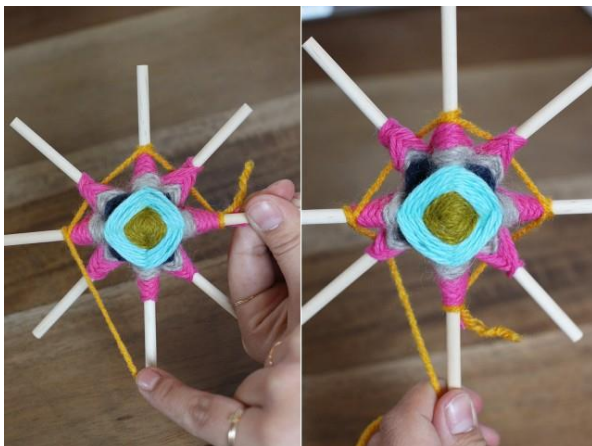
1. The wing wrap is formed by working the front wrap on opposite sticks and skipping consecutive sticks. (Fig. C)
2. Repeat this wrap on opposite sticks, wrapping in the same number of times (for symmetry).



C

Alternate Wrap

1. Formed by working the wrap on every other stick. Best used when skeleton has 3 or more frame sticks.

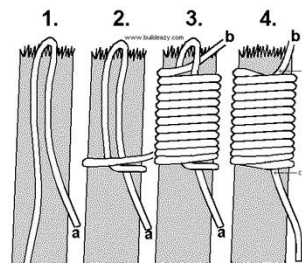


D

Advanced ways to finish:

1. Cover Sticks with Gathering Knots to wrap bare wood:

- Take yarn and make a loop (Fig. 1).
- Wrap yarn stick leaving a tail. (Fig. 2)
- After several wrappings take the end through the loop and pull. (Fig. 3a,b)
- Take both ends and pull tight. (Fig. 4)
- Trim ends.



2. Add pre-made decorative pom poms or tassels.

Project Notes:

1. For younger students, easier to use flat sticks that can be glued together.
2. Knots are difficult to tie, instead of adding different colored yarns, use yarns that have repeats in color:



Aesthetic Valuing

1. What kind of color pattern did you select (i.e., warm, cool, primary, etc.)?
2. How does the texture of the yarn affect the color pattern?
3. How many wrapping techniques did you use in your Ojo de Dios?
4. What would you change or keep the next time you make one?

Additional Optional Reading: *Ojo De Dios – Eye of God* by Charlet Albaum

Presenting Artist: Stacy Wong

Creating has always been a part of Stacy's life. A self-taught artist, she is a lifelong collector and creative maker. Wood is her preferred medium because it is solid, and its surfaces can be painted and printed upon, yet the integrity of the natural wood is still there. Stacy left a career in corporate Human Resources several years ago to pursue her art and making full time.

In 2015, Stacy was honored to win the Academy of Handmade Award as "Best Maker in the Wood Medium" category. She also started teaching Community Making Workshops in 2015, to give back and share with the community. These workshops provide an outlet for meaningful connections within the community at large as well as with other creatives. Stacy has taught over 60 workshops in a variety of mediums and projects including teaching at Craftcation (a nationally known business and creative conference) and recently organized and coordinated all the DIY workshops for the 2020 Midwest Craft Con in Columbus, Ohio.

She designs and creates products which are modern, aesthetically pleasing, and functional. All her work is handmade, one at a time, in Manhattan Beach, CA. Her goods are currently sold in shops and boutiques across the UA. For more information, art, and goods made by Stacy go to her web page:

stacywonghandmade.com

Art At Your Fingertips is a Palos Verdes Art Center school-based outreach program in partnership with the Palos Verdes Unified School District and the Palos Verdes Library District. Founded in 1976, this volunteer program annually brings quality visual arts education to almost 7,000 transitional kindergarten through fifth grade students at public and private schools on the Palos Verdes Peninsula as well as schools and organizations beyond the Peninsula.

We thank PTA, PTO, and Booster Club for their support.

OJO DE DIOS "GOD'S EYE"



Learn more about Ojo de Dios at the Palos Verdes Library District

Adult Section

NONFICTION OVERSIZED 745.0972 TONEYAMA **The popular arts of Mexico**

Dive deeper into this history of the huichol people and the Ojo de Dios.

746.41 MONAGHAN **You can weave! : projects for young weavers**

This book has 18 step-by-step weaving projects sure to be fun!

745.0972 SAY **Arts and crafts of Mexico**

An informative look at the wide variety of folk art and crafts from a variety of regions of Mexico.

746.14 JARCHOW **The weaving explorer : ingenious techniques, accessible tools & creative projects with yarn, paper, wire & more.**

Taking inspiration from the world of folk weaving traditions and adding a contemporary spin by introducing an unexpected range of materials and home decor projects.

Young Readers Section

J Folk Tale NORTH AMERICA MEXICO HUICHOLO ENDREY **The journey of Tunuri and the Blue Deer : a Huichol Indian story**

A modern adaptation of a Huichol teaching tale illustrated with yarn drawings. This book also explains who the Huichol people are and the symbolism of images used by the artists.

J Fiction World Languages Spanish MARSHALL, LINDA **Rainbow weaver = Tejedora del arcoíris**

A bilingual English/Spanish book about a young Mayan girl who discovers how to repurpose plastic bags to create colorful weavings.

970.1 MURDOCH **North American Indian** by David Murdoch

Eyewitness Books provide an in-depth, comprehensive look at the fascinating civilizations of North American Indians.

746.1 ROESSEL **Songs from the loom : a Navajo girl learns to weave**

This book shows the cultural significance and history of weaving in Navajo culture.

Explore the Web

The Oklahoma Historical Society has a brief history of the God's Eye and how to guide:

<https://www.okhistory.org/kids/printables/godseye.pdf>

Encyclopedia Britannica Online offers some quick facts about the Huichol people:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Huichol>



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