

Somerset Interfaith & Belief Network

Ojos de Dios /God's Eyes /Tsikuri / Sikuli.

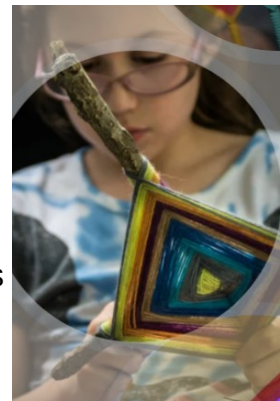
CONNECT with each other through compassion, peace and hope for the future

This versatile craft activity is meditative, relaxing and enjoyable. It can be a route into conversation-based activity for adults, families, people of all ages. The making draws on Ojos De Dios – God's Eyes commonly found in Mexican, Peruvian and Latin American communities, among both Indigenous and Catholic societies.



Ojo de Dios expresses a prayer that the "Eye of God" will watch over the individual or the person that it is made for. It is a physical representation of praying for health, fortune, and a long life. Some Catholics interpret the symbol to be a prayer for "May God be with you and protect you."

Creating an item that has come about from conversations, sharing hopes, listening and reflecting on ones own lived by values and hopes for the future.



The God's Eye is an ancient cultural symbol, "the power to see and understand things unknown." In contemporary society, the God's Eye is used as protection on bed headboards, car mirrors, doors, earrings, hanging mobiles, patterns within fabrics and more in order to keep negative energy away.

God's eyes are woven on sticks that are crisscrossed. The ends of the sticks represent the basic elements – earth, water, wind, and fire, and the four compass directions – north, south, east and west or the 5 sacred . Originally, they symbolized the loving eye of a god and were made for each year of a child's life up to age five. Hung near the child's sleeping space, they protect the child from harm. Today they are craft items, used as wall hangings or mobiles with interesting colours and textures.

The centre of the eye symbolizes the power of seeing and understanding things we normally cannot see. Weaving a pupil of black yarn or placing a mirrored disk in the centre, where the sticks cross is said to enhance the vision of the god's eyes.

God's eyes are visual symbols with historical and philosophical significance for a range of peoples, including:-

- For the Huichol (wet-chol) indigenous people of Mexico; the symbolism is associated with prayers for their children – prayers for a good long life, protection

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and to insure abundant crops. The centre of the pattern, the eye, symbolizes the power of seeing and understanding things we normally cannot see. Wixáritari ("the people") weave a pupil of black yarn or place a mirrored disk in the centre where the sticks cross to enhance the vision of the god's eyes.

- For the Wixárika, (Wixáritari "the people") these are known as tsikuri and are ritual items offered as gifts to gods, for protection and favour. The crossed sticks represent the elements of earth, air, fire, and water, as well as the five sacred directions of north, south, east, west and centre.
- Tepehuán

During the workshop, participants will learn a bit about the symbolism, their meanings and choose some they feel a connection with. Hopefully participants will share some of their thoughts and motivations whilst their prints are drying.

The GLADE Centre can run this as a practical workshop suitable for families, adults but not lone children, unless in a school setting. Please come prepared for craftwork, you are welcome to bring your own apron, craft overalls to protect your clothes. Should you have something you'd like to weave with or put into your design please do bring that along.

Items we provide to use:-

- sticks, twigs or similar to weave and take away
- a selection of yarn
- scissors

Contact Lynn; lynn@glade.org or Liz; liz@glade.org to book

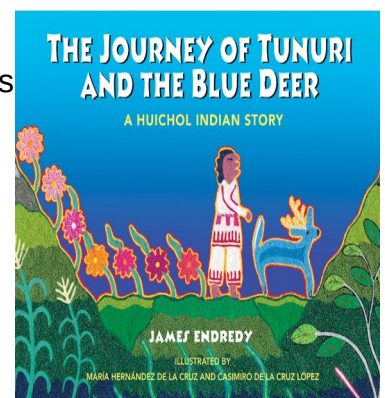
Suggestions to continue with a traditional story:

- **The Journey of Tunuri and the Blue Deer;** a contemporary adaptation of a traditional Huichol story of a young child finding their personal task in life by connecting with the powers of nature. Told through the experiences of young Tunuri, who becomes lost in the woods, meets the magical Blue Deer—a messenger between the worlds of mortals and deities—who introduces Tunuri to Father Sun, Mother Earth, and others in the natural world, while leading them back to their human family. Through this lovely tale and the vivid illustrations done in the medium of traditional Huichol yarn drawings, children can learn about their place in the sacred web of life.

The Journey of Tunuri and the Blue Deer - A Huichol Indian Story

By (Author) James Endredy

Illustrated by María Hernández de la Cruz & Casimiro de la Cruz López



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Useful weblinks to inspire further learning:

<https://www.internationalfolkart.org/learn/folk-art-for-you/diy-god%E2%80%99s-eye.html>

<https://rhubarbandwren.co.uk/how-to-weave-a-tsikuri-or-ojo-de-dios-gods-eye/>

<https://www.worldviewart.com/index/ojo-de-dios>

<https://nierika.info/>

<https://www.thisiscolossal.com/2015/07/the-gods-eyes-of-jay-mohler/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qf5euldYEbg>

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