

BITE RECIPE – GOD'S EYES

Ojo de Dios, or God's Eyes, are commonly made by the Huichole Indians of Mexico, but are also found in Africa and in the East. Originally, they symbolized the loving eye of a god and were made for each year of a child's life up to age five, and hung near the child's cot to protect it from harm. Today they are craft items, used as wall hangings or mobiles with interesting colours and textures. We make very simple ones here, but they can be very sophisticated. See www.ojos-de-dios.com

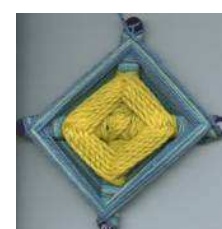
Ingredients:

- Two sticks, anything from 8cms long to 20cms. Lollipop sticks, or drinking straws. anything from cocktail sticks to kebab sticks will work, but for small children these can still be dangerous even with the sharp ends cut off.
- Knitting yarns, 4ply to really thick, ribbon, tape, scrap store items. Choose to suit size of stick. A big variety available makes the activity more exciting.
- A couple of pairs of scissors. A pair each isn't necessary.

Method: 10 – 20 mins
upwards

Age range: 5yrs

- Choose your first yarn and knot it round one of your two sticks.
 - Lay the two sticks in a cross shape and wind the yarn round the middle first from top right to bottom left several times, then from top left to bottom right. This covers the centre on both sides
 - Make your first circuit, by winding the yarn once round (i.e. under and over) each stick in turn. Be careful to lay each circuit **next** to the last rather than **over** it. *This will give a raised effect, outlining the shape of your sticks on the side you are working on, but a smooth appearance on the other side.*
 - If you turn your work over and continue **exactly** the same, your raised work will be on the other side, making interesting effects.
 - Change colour by knotting a new colour and or texture yarn to the end of the old one. "Disappear" the ends into your windings.
 - Stop about 2 cm from the stick ends. Choose the stick you want as a handle and wind the yarn down it to its end, and tie off
- If you want to, decorate the God's Eye with feathers, beads, buttons, etc.



Global issues raised:

Health and poverty. Millennium development goals (MDGs). Human Rights. Children's rights. Superstition or belief? If you have no access to medical care and/or not enough money to pay for it, would a God's Eye seem an important insurance option for the child's health? Under fives' mortality statistics – impact of dirty water and poor sanitation. Role of international aid.

Additional resources: GLADE's Mexico Collection includes further information and samples. GLADE has extensive material on MDGs, poverty, human rights etc.

Where to use this global bite: Fêtes, fairs, holiday schemes, clubs