



Woolly Weaving

An indoor, practical activity in which children learn about where wool comes from, its properties and how it is used to produce textiles. Children learn about traditional techniques for processing wool and see carders, a niddy noddy and a spinning wheel. They then work individually, using the star weaving technique, to create simple decorations traditionally known as Gods' Eyes in some South American cultures.

Duration: about an hour

Age Range: Years 1 and 2 (Age 5 to 7)

Location: The Moors National Park Centre

Main Curriculum Links:

Art and Design – using materials creatively, developing a range of art and design techniques



| Key Learning Objectives Children should learn... | Learning Outcomes |
|---|---|
| <p><i>Art and Design</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> about the processes used to make products from wool in the past and present; about the visual and tactile qualities of wool about traditional craft techniques <p><i>Other skills involved</i></p> <p>Dexterity and coordination Concentration</p> | <p>All children will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify products made from wool work individually to make an artefact <p>Most children will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe the visual and tactile properties of wool select colours and textures of wool to design and make a God's Eye <p>Some children will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe traditional methods of turning sheep fleeces into wool products |

Assessment for Learning

We assess learning using a variety of techniques appropriate to the activity such as: questioning, questioning games, observing how well children are performing tasks, checking results, quizzes and feedback forms.

Opportunities for Extending Learning Before and After this Activity

- Find out more about Gods' Eyes. From where do they originate and what is the meaning behind them?
- Develop and improve your Gods' Eyes further by decorating the ends of the sticks with feathers, shells, beads etc
- Make a display with your finished Gods' Eyes.
- Give your Gods' Eyes a Christmas theme and turn them into Christmas decorations
- The British Wool Marketing Board produces a range of curriculum linked resources for schools at:

<http://www.britishwool.org.uk/edresource.asp?pageid=84> *

*This is an external website for which the National Park Authority has no responsibility

More about Gods' Eyes (taken from Wikipedia)

A God's eye is a yarn weaving and a spiritual object.

The 'Ojo de Dios' (Eye of God in Spanish) is woven with yarn and wood, often with several colours. The weaving of an Ojo de Dios is an ancient contemplative and spiritual practice for many indigenous peoples in the Americas, and beliefs surrounding them vary with location and history. In many of the Pueblos of New Mexico, Ojos de Dios have traditionally been



created for celebration or blessing, presented as a gift or designed to bless a home. Traditional Ojos de Dios are frequently woven in solitude, as part of an extended meditation or prayer. In other settings, their construction is one aspect of longstanding, communal engagement and connection. For centuries, young people in the mountains of New Mexico have made Ojos de Dios in learning circles (wisdom circles) with their elders. In other parts of the 'New World' they were used as ritual objects or for rites of passage. Today, artisans weave complicated or variegated versions of the traditional Ojo de Dios, selling them as decorations or religious objects.

