



Create woven turtles

This method of weaving is popular in Mexico, where it is used to create items called *ojo de dios* (which means "eye of god" in Spanish). These are made as protective and spiritual symbols to help people connect more deeply with the natural world. Colourful string is wrapped around a cross of sticks, building up mesmerising patterns. The technique is simple once you've got the hang of it, and you can have lots of fun designing your own.

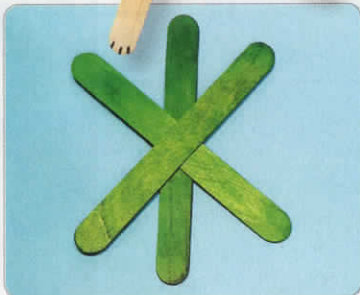
What you need

- 3 wooden lolly sticks
- PVA glue
- Coloured string or wool (we used three colours but you can use as many as you like)
- Coloured pens
- Scissors

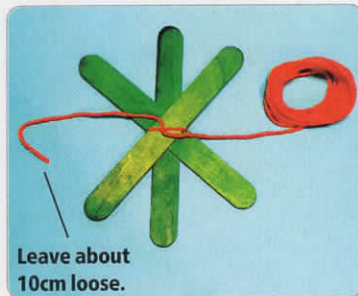


Any colours can be used.

DID YOU KNOW?
Weaving dates back more than 27,000 years.



1 Glue the lolly sticks together in the arrangement shown above. When the glue has dried, colour in the top sides of the sticks.

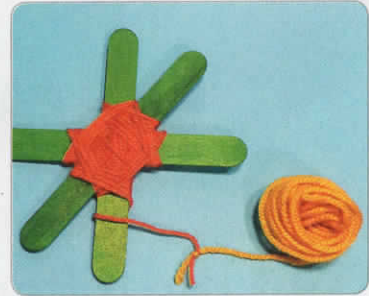


Leave about 10cm loose.

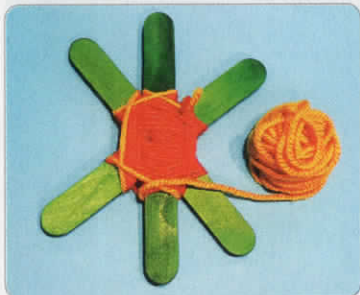
2 Take the first colour of string and tie one end around the centre of the sticks. Leave about 10cm to the side; you will need this in step 7.



3 Use the string to cover the middle. Wrap it across the centre and between each of the sticks in turn until the join is completely covered.



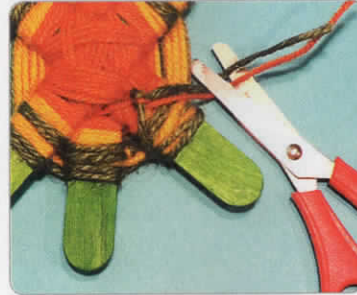
4 Once the middle is covered, wrap the string around one stick then cut it. Take your second colour of string and tie it to the end of the first colour.



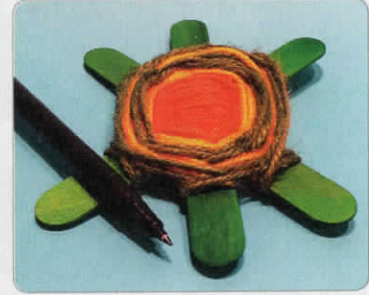
5 Wrap the string over the top of the next stick along. Loop it under, and out the other side to create an X-shape. Repeat on the next stick.



6 Moving anticlockwise, repeat step 5 until all sticks have an X-shape. Go round a few times to build up the layers. Change colours whenever you like.



7 To finish, tie the end of the string securely to the 10cm that was left in the middle, and trim. That completes the turtle's shell.



8 Put the finishing touch to your turtle by using a pen to draw a face on the end of one of the sticks. Put it on display or give it to someone as a gift.

Want more ideas like this? Head to theweekjunior.co.uk/activityhub