Dream Catchers

Objective: For people to make a dream catcher they can hang over their bed and enjoy.

Story: Dream Catchers were used by Native Americans to catch their bad dreams. When hung above their bed, as the dreams come to you, the bad ones get caught in the webbing while the good ones are filtered through the feather into your head. When the sun comes up and hits the webbing of the dream catcher, the sun makes the bad dreams go away.

> In some Native American cultures and First Nations cultures, a dreamcatcher or dream catcher (Ojibwe: *asabikeshiinh*, the inanimate form of the word for "spider")is a handmade willow hoop, on which is woven a net or web. The dreamcatcher may also include sacred items such as certain feathers or beads. Traditionally they are often hung over a cradle as protection.[1]

Materials: We are providing a list of materials and substitutes if you do not have the specific item.

Hoop - You will need a hoop or something in the form of a circle about 8 to 12 inches in diameter. Some people loop Grapevine or green tree branches. The best is a brass hoop bought in a craft store. Walmart has them for sale for around $1.00. You can even take a wire hanger and bend it into a loop.

String- Most kinds of string will work, but it my be strong enough not to break easily and slippery enough for the knots to be made. Commonly used string- Kite String, embroidery floss (friendship bracelet string), fishing line, masonry string.

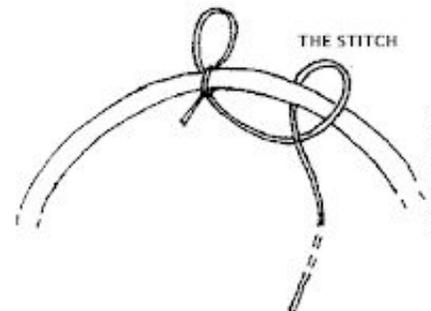Feathers- A feather helps complete this project, but isn't required.

Bead - I use a bead in my dream catchers to represent the spider, but it isn't required.

Clippers or Scissors - you will need something to cut the string.

Making the dream catcher:

To begin, you will need to know about the knot we will be tying. It is a common knot used in crafting. It is commonly referred to as the hitch knot.

THE STITCH

This string will be the beginning of the web.You will tie the end of the string to the loop. Choose 6-8 points around the circle you wish to use as the base web. Take the string to the first point and use a "crafters knot" to loop the string around this point.Loop the string, pass the string back through the loop, and pull tight. You will want the string to be tight, but not so tight that it warps the

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[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dreamcatcher

hoop. Continue to the next point, and tie another craft knot. Continue around the circle to the beginning. You should end about ½ inch before the where you tied the string onto the hoop.
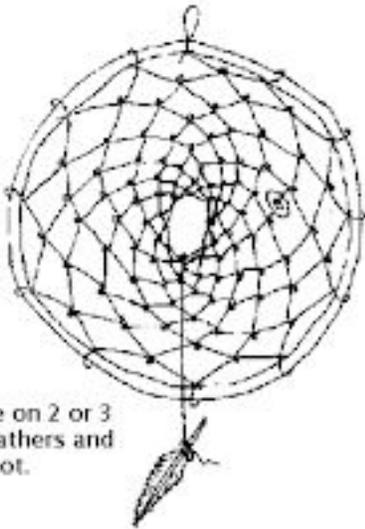
Did you know?

Orb-weaver spiders or **araneids** are members of the [spider family](#) **Araneidae**. They are the most common group of builders of spiral wheel-shaped webs often found in gardens, fields and forest. "Orb" can in English mean "circular",[1] hence the English name of the group. [2]

Second Round

On the second and subsequent stitching rounds, place the string around the center of each stitch from the previous round of string (rather than around the hoop).

Tie on 2 or 3 feathers and knot.

As you pull each stitch tight, the string from the previous round should bend towards the center of the hoop slightly, forming a diamond shape. You should see the spider web beginning to form.

On the third or fourth round add a bead to represent the spider in the web. Simply place the bead on your string and continue stitching as usual.

Continue stitching towards the center of the hoop. At some point the stitches become so small that it is difficult to pass the string through. Make sure you leave a hole in the center of the dreamcatcher.

Stop stitching at the bottom of the hole in the center of the dream catcher. End by stitching twice in the same place, forming a knot, and pull tight.

You should have 6 - 8 in. of string to tie 2 or 3 feathers which dangle from the center of the dreamcatcher.

Tips and Tricks -

Wrap the string around a small piece of cardboard- it will make it easier to pass though the first two rounds.

Make a loop of string at the top of the dreamcatcher to make it easier to display.

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[2] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orb-weaver_spider