



## Crafts Around the World Series

### Huichol Picture: Yarn Art

Enjoy learning how to make simple crafts from seven continents: **Africa, Antarctica, Europe, Asia, Australia, North America & South America.**

#### Purpose:

Introduce youth to some simple cultural traditional crafts from around the world. Journey around seven continents, learning how to make simple crafts and having fun creating.

#### Objectives:

- ◇ Learn the cultural history and origins of the craft.
- ◇ Find the country on a map and/or globe.
- ◇ Develop fine motor skills in drawing and gluing.
- ◇ Increase in cultural awareness and creativity.

#### Education Standards:

- ◇ Understand the visual arts in relation to history and culture.
- ◇ Apply geometric methods to solve design problems.

#### Experiential Learning:

- ◇ Create a design using yarn.

Use these phrases:

Do it, What happened,  
What's important, So What,  
Now What?

**Audience:** Suggested  
Grades K-12



*Photo courtesy of Janis Brinn*

#### CONTINENT: NORTH AMERICA

North America is the third largest of the world's continents. Home to 23 countries and 9 dependent territories with the United States of America being the largest.

#### COUNTRY: MEXICO

#### LESSON: HUICHOL PICTURE: YARN ART

Huichol Indians live in the Sierra Madre Mountains of Mexico. Huichol paintings are made with beeswax spread on wood, then left to warm in the sun. The artist then scratches his design into the wax with a sharpened stick. The lines of the drawing are then filled in by patiently twisting and coiling colored yarns.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Developed by MSU Extension Educator, Janis Brinn with Resource from *Que Rico La Cultura* 4HCCS BU-08180 pgs.92-95

# HUICHOL PICTURE: YARN ART

**TIME:** 30-45 minutes or multiple days depending upon the interest to learn more.

## MATERIALS:

- ◇ Various Colors of Yarn
- ◇ Craft Glue
- ◇ Scissors
- ◇ Pencils w/erasers or pen
- ◇ Craft stick or toothpicks—tools for moving the yarn
- ◇ White Cardboard or wooden thin board (back of a cereal box works well too)
- ◇ Paper to draw design
- ◇ Optional: Sample & design ideas

## INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEO LINK:

[https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/Michigan-State-University-4-H-Grab-Go-Mexico-Yarn-Art/1\\_yob4af0z](https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/Michigan-State-University-4-H-Grab-Go-Mexico-Yarn-Art/1_yob4af0z)

## PROCEDURE: How to make Yarn Art

- ◇ Trace or draw a simple design or shape onto a piece of cardboard or thin wooden board
- ◇ Spread a thin layer of glue across the entire design or put it only where you will be gluing your yarn on the design.
- ◇ Starting on the outside of the design, lay the yarn down on the glue. Follow the outline of the design and press yarn into the glue.
- ◇ When the entire outline is covered with yarn, put another line of yarn inside the first one. Experiment with different colors.
- ◇ Continue until the entire object is covered.

Youth can hang the Huichol art as a picture or can cut them out to use as decorative ornaments.

**Art Science** — Experiment with different types of yarn or string, try different bases, different designs, and different techniques. Ask questions & make discoveries!

The Huichol also used beads placed in beeswax to make designs. Try making another picture using small beads in place of yarn. An instruction sheet is available as part of this series.

**Reflection Questions:** What surprised you and why? When were you the most creative, and why do you think that is? What made you curious today? What can you do with what you learned today?