

## History of God's Eyes

God's Eyes can be traced back to the Americas in the 1500s. The Spanish originally named them, "*Ojo de Dios*" (translated "the eye of the God") when they first encountered Native American groups that had created them.

One of these Native American groups, the Huichol of the Sierra Madre Mountains of Mexico, created God's eyes as a symbol of protection. The Huichol believed that crafting an object was a way to get in touch with the spiritual world. The God's Eye provides a watchful eye over a person, protecting him/her against future uncertainties. It also served as a symbol of the power of seeing and understanding unseen things. Traditionally, when people made a God's Eye, they were expressing a prayer that the eye of God will watch over themselves and the person they made it for.

When you are making your own God's eye, consider who in your life needs protection from God during this time and pray for this person as you are making your God's eye.

## The God's Eye Legend

A blind daughter was born to the first ruler of the Aymara Empire in Bolivia. To help her, the Sun God sent a messenger to tell the family that if they would create an eye that resembled his, the girl would be able to see the beauty of the world around her. Many days passed and nobody could think of anything that resembled the Sun God's eye.

One day the mother of the little blind girl was crying in desperation and heartbreak over the realization that her little girl would never see the beauty of a sunrise or sunset, a flower when it first blooms, a bird flying through the trees, or the sun shining on a waterfall. As she cried her tears of sadness, she noticed a small rainbow formed by the Sun God's light and the water in her tears. Her tears of sadness became tears of joy when she realized what the Sun God's eye looked like.

The mother of the little blind girl searched the city for threads of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. She weaved the threads around two sticks, creating a beautiful eye. The mother brought it to her daughter and placed it in the little blind girl's lap. When the little blind girl held up the weaving to her face, she slowly began to see the colors of the rainbow. The little girl began to blink and see the beauty of a sunrise or sunset, a flower when it first blooms, a bird flying through the trees, or the sun shining on a waterfall. The Sun God, recognizing the mother's weaving, had fulfilled his promise.

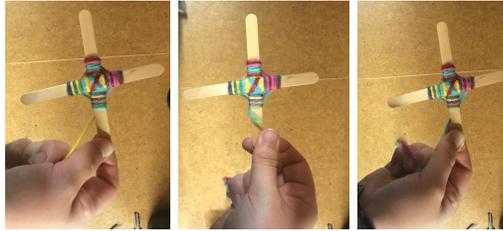
From then on, many generations of Aymara have made a God's Eye since it brings such happiness and light.

## Instructions for God's Eyes

1. Cut a piece of yarn about the length of one of your popsicle sticks.
2. Take your two popsicle sticks and place them in a cross formation. (Similar to a plus sign, +). Use the cut piece of yarn to bind the popsicle sticks tightly together by crisscrossing the yarn over the sticks several times. Tie a knot to hold them firmly in place. Snip off any loose ends.



3. Take your ball of yarn and connect it by knotting the end of your yarn onto one of the sticks close to the center.
4. Now wrap the yarn in a clockwise or counterclockwise direction (you can decide, but just be consistent) around one of your sticks.



5. Move onto the next stick, wrapping the yarn in same direction as before. Keep doing this process around each stick.
6. When you have gotten to the ends of your popsicle sticks or have almost run out of string, tie a knot around the end of a popsicle stick with the remaining yarn.

There is also a video tutorial of how to make a God's Eye coming to Camp Wesley Wood's Facebook page. Check there if you need a visual on how this all comes together! Or you can always call the CWW office at (865) 448-2246 for more help.