

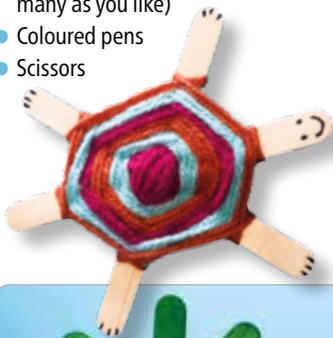


# Create woven turtles

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

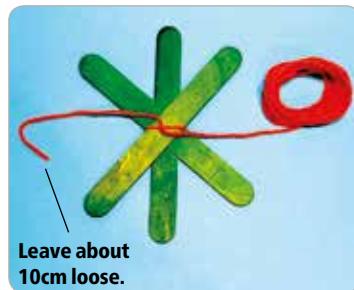


Any colours can be used.

**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.

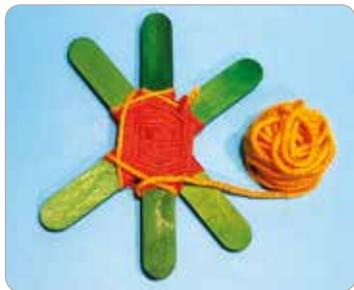
**2** Take the first colour of string and tie one end around the centre of the sticks. Leave about 10cm to the side; you will need this in step 7.



**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.

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