



# Art Activity

## Yarn Painting





# Inspired by Huichol Yarn Painting

Information from the Lam Museum of Anthropology



# Who are the Huichol?

- ◆ Descendants of the Aztec, the Huichol (pronounced Wee-chol) or Wixáritari are an indigenous people of Mexico.
- ◆ Like other indigenous people, the Huichol survived the Spanish Conquest of Mexico and their population today is about 18,000.
- ◆ Few outsiders are welcome in Huichol villages because they are trying to keep their traditional ceremonies, language, arts, and culture alive. This is difficult because of the increasing physical and cultural influences of the modern world.





# Art and Symbolism

- ◆ The Huichol are known for their colorful bead and yarn works. Historically, shamans created these objects to reflect their spiritual relationships with ancestors and nature deities.
- ◆ Today, creating bead and yarn works has become a family enterprise with individual Huichol artisans developing his or her own personal style.



# How the Huichol Make Yarn Paintings

- ◆ To make yarn paintings an artist spreads beeswax on a board and then sketches out a design. The design is filled in by carefully pressing brightly colored yarns into the wax.
- ◆ The first yarn paintings made for tourists were largely decorative. Within a short time, artists realized yarn paintings could tell their stories, myths, and record the sacred visions of the Huichol.
- ◆ Learn more about the Huichol and their arts with this video: [Visions of the Ancestors: Mexican Huichol Art.](#)







# Examples

*Let's make our own yarn paintings!*



# Supplies

- ◆ You will need:
  - Glue
  - Drawing paper
  - Pencil
  - Yarn
  - Scissors
  - Toothpick or skewer



