

## Wire Dream Catcher

A decorative, sculptural interpretation of the Native American tradition

### (art + history)

Originating with the Ojibwe people and later adopted by Native American cultures of many nations, a dream catcher is a charm designed to hang above the head of a sleeping person, usually a child, to protect against nightmares. It was designed to look like a spider's web, with fine diameter string woven on a willow hoop. The good dreams would pass through the weaving and the bad dreams would be caught in the net.

A modern and expressive way to make a dream catcher is to incorporate wire, string, beads and feathers in a design done on a metal hoop. Wire is an amazing art medium — it can be bent to form a variety of lines, shapes, letters, and images. Elementary-age students can work easily with chenille stems and colorful plastic-coated wire while older students will create art with soft aluminum and copper wire.

**GRADES K-5** Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.

### Preparation

1. View images of Native American dream catchers.

### Process

1. Attach wire to one side of ring by wrapping tightly, stretch taut and attach to the ring on another side. Trim away any excess.
2. Create a design with wires, incorporating beads, if desired.
3. Add a wire loop at the top for hanging.
4. Dangle feathers beneath, attaching with wires.
5. Hang above a bed to catch the bad dreams!

### National Core Arts Standards - Visual Arts

#### Creating

**Anchor Standard 2:** Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

#### Presenting

**Anchor Standard 5:** Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.

#### Responding

**Anchor Standard 7:** Perceive and analyze artistic work.

#### Connecting

**Anchor Standard 11:** Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.



### Materials (required)

**Gold-Tone Welded Macramé Ring**, assorted sizes (66909-); need one ring per student

An assortment of wires, recommend for Early Elementary:

**Twisteez Wires**, box of 50 (33407-1050)

**Creativity Street Stems**, 12" assorted colors, pkg of 100 (60923-1012)

**Creativity Street Tinsel Stems**, pkg of 100 (60923-0009)

**Creativity Street Striped Stems**, pkg of 100 (60923-1023)

An assortment of wires, recommend for Middle Grades:

**Blick Armature and Sculpture Wire**, 14-gauge, 350 ft spool, (33400-1435)

**Silver Plated Copper Wire**, set of six, 24 gauge (60687-1249)

**Blick Copper Wire**, 18 gauge, 25 ft spool (33415-1018)

**Economy Glass Bead Assortment**, 1 lb (61536-1001); share one across class

**Assorted Metallized Beads**, 16 oz mix (60776-1001); share among class

**Turkey Feathers**, assorted colors, pkg of 8 (62148-); need two for each student

