Museum Fun From Home - Dream Catchers!

Dream catchers originate from the Native American cultures. It is a protective talisman used to protect people from bad dreams and nightmares. Native American cultures believe that good and bad dreams fill the air at night. Acting like a spiderweb, the dream catcher traps the bad dreams until the morning light destroys them. Good dreams travel down the feathers to the person sleeping below.

How to make a Dream Catcher from a paper plate:

Step 1: Cut out the center of the plate.

Step 2: Decorate and hole punch the inner ring.

Step 3: Cut five 6 inch pieces off the string and set them aside. The remaining string will be used in the next step.

Step 4: Tape the start of the long string and weave it through the holes.

Step 5: Tie a feather to four of the shorter strings and then string three beads on each string.

Step 6: Tape the four strings with feathers and beads to the back of the plate.

Step 7: Tape the last string into a loop at the top of the plate and hang your dream catcher.

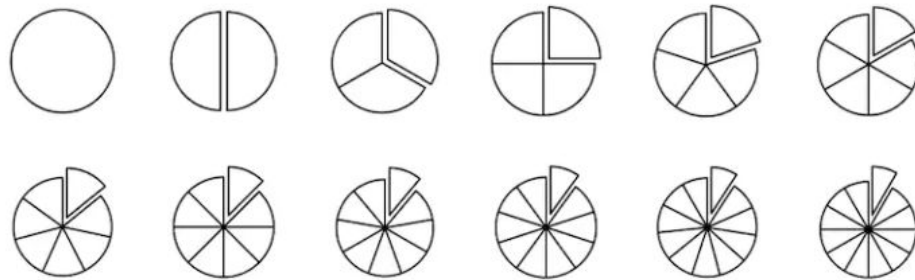**Share your creations with us at info@cmfdl.org!**

Additional Learning Opportunities with Dream Catchers

2-5 Years

1. **Recognize and Name** a circle, square, triangle and rectangle on the Dream Catcher, in the room, out the window, and/or on a walk through the neighborhood.

2. **Trace and Cut** multiple sized circles out of paper such as newspaper, wrapping paper, scrapbook paper, etc.

3. **Count** the number of shapes that were created by the string in the middle of the Dream Catcher.

4. **Name** the colors of the Dream Catcher...Play "I Spy" with those colors.

6-12 Years

1. **Label** the Dream Catcher as if it is a clock, compare it to a clock, and talk about telling time with it.

2. Use printer paper to **Create Fractions** with the Dream Catcher; cover ½ and ¼ with one sheet of paper, cover ¾ with two sheets of paper, etc.

3. Lay the Dream Catcher on paper and **Trace** the pattern made by the strings to create a **Coloring Page**.

4. **Measure** the Radius, Diameter and Circumference of the inside and outside circles of the Dream Catcher.