



ARTS & DESIGN

Dream Catcher Art

What is a Dream Catcher?

You've probably seen a dream catcher hanging from a tree, a porch or even in a souvenir shop and wondered about its purpose and meaning?

Originally created by American Indians, dream catchers today come in a variety of different **sizes and styles**.

They usually consist of a small wooden hoop covered in a net or web of natural fibres, with meaningful sacred items like feathers and beads attached, hanging down from the bottom of the hoop. Real authentic, traditional dream catchers are handmade and crafted only from all-natural materials, measuring just a few small inches across in size.



The dream catcher web catches bad dreams during the night and disposes of them when the day comes. As for the good dreams, the feathers act as a fluffy, pillow-like ladder that allows them to gently descend upon the sleeping person undisturbed. There is some contention when it comes to the meaning of the beads that often decorate the dreamcatcher. According to some American Indians, the beads symbolize the spider—the web weaver itself. Others believe the beads symbolize the good dreams that could not pass through the web, immortalized in the form of sacred charms.



Materials:

- Cardboard / Watercolor Paper
- Watercolour paints or pencils
- Texta/Markers
- (optional: feathers, glue)

Activity:

- Draw your Dream Catcher with a pencil and then trace with a marker
- Be careful to include all of the elements: The circle(s), The Web, The feathers and the beads
- Color the dream catcher with markers
- Use water-colors to paint the background (try using complementary colours)

