



**Included materials:**

- A hoop
- 4 yards of artificial sinew
- A feather
- One malachite bead
- One wooden bead
- One popsicle stick (this will act as your needle)
- Glue

You will need to use scissors

**NOTE:**

The malachite stone represents the spider and needs to be woven into the web at some point. The feather can be added at the end. A feather is provided but please add your own if you want. The wooden bead is to put over the end of the quill of the feather.

Have Fun!

The Dream Catcher originated with the Ojibwe and according to legend the "spider webs" protective charms came with "Spider Women, known as Asibikaashi"; who took care of the children and people of the land. Today dream catchers are still made and placed above a child's or adult's bed. It was said that the dream catchers "caught any harm that might be in the air as a spider's web catches and holds whatever comes in contact with it."



Dreamcatchers

**"Thank You"**

- To Kathy Goddu for designing this project.
- To the Anonimo Foundation for providing the funding.

**FMI**  
 Contact the Merrymeeting Arts Center & the Bowdoinham Public Library.

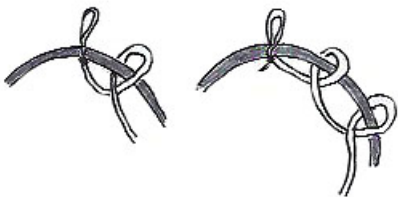


**1** Strip the artificial sinew into two or three strands. Wind one of the strands onto the popsicle stick. Gently wind the other two strands into two separate circles. You can wind them onto a twig or a stick if you wish.

**2** Determine where you want the top of the hoop to be.

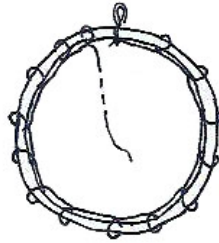
**3** With the strand you have on the popsicle stick, make a loop, place in back of the top of your hoop and tie it around the hoop to make a loop to hang the dream catcher from. The remainder of the strand will be used to start weaving the web.

**4** How many of you are familiar with a "half hitch" knot? That is the knot we will be using throughout. Start the sinew in front of the hoop, loop it over the hoop (front to back). Bring the end of the popsicle stick through to the front making sure the sinew on your stick is to the left of the strand on the hoop. (This is a half hitch)



Secure this half hitch to the hoop about two inches from the hanging loop. Move over about 2-2 1/2" and make

another half hitch. You will want to pull each stitch taught but not too tight. As you go around each row will tighten the previous row. Once you get back to the top of your hoop, your last half hitch stitch of the first round should be placed about 1/2" away from the hanging loop.



The second and subsequent rows: Thread the sinew stitch through the center of each stitch from the previous row (not around the hoop). Always going through from the front of the stitch and come back to the front with the sinew to the left of the loop you just made.

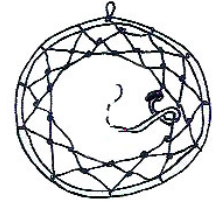
As you pull each stitch tight, the sinew from the previous row should bend towards the center of the hoop slightly, forming a diamond shape. You should see the spider web beginning to form.



On the third or fourth row add a malachite bead to represent the spider in the web. Simply place the bead on your sinew and continue stitching as usual. (You may need to strip the sinew narrower to get the

bead on. That's okay. Once the bead is on, put the two strands back together.)

Continue stitching the half hitch in rows until you are satisfied with how it looks. Make sure you leave a hole in the center of the dream catcher. Do not forget to add the malachite bead for the spider.



**5** Ending the weave: Once you are satisfied with your weaving, weave to the bottom of your hoop. Here you will make a couple of half hitches, dot with a dab of glue, cut the sinew leaving a tail at least 4" long until the glue has dried. Once dried you can cut the sinew very close.

**6** Add the feather: Wrap the feather several times with sinew, leaving a long tail at the beginning, slip the wooden bead down over the quill of the feather to cover up the sinew. Tie this around any part of the web that suits you. Tie a square knot on the back, dab with glue. When dry, cut the extra sinew off.

**Congratulations!**  
**You made a**  
**Dreamcatcher!**

