



STUDIO SPARKS KIT

Macramé Ornament

4-H PROJECT AREA : 4-H VISUAL ARTS HERITAGE ARTS

Macramé, a textile art involving knotting techniques to create decorative patterns, has a rich history spanning thousands of years. Macramé is believed to have originated with the ancient Babylonians and Assyrians (circa 2300 BCE), who used knotting techniques to create decorative fringes on clothing and ceremonial textiles. The word "macramé" is derived from the Arabic term *migramah*, meaning "fringe" or "embroidered veil," which reflects its early applications.

Today, macramé has experienced another revival, with artisans and crafters using it to create modern designs in home décor, jewelry, and even large-scale art installations.



Supplies

- Wooden ring
- Wooden beads
- 3 mm cotton cord
- 24" thread or cord
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Comb

For video assistance, you may wish to reference this tutorial: go.illinois.edu/MacrameCharm



STEP 1

Tie a Knot with your 24" thread or cord around the ring.



STEP 2

Slide two wooden beads onto the thread/cord. Tie another Knot toward the end of the thread/cord. This will be your hanger.

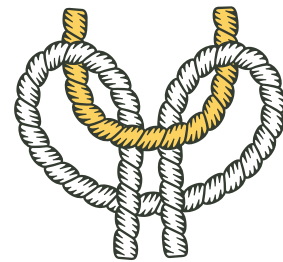


STEP 3

Tape the thread/cord to a solid surface to help hold the wooden ring in place while doing your macramé.

STEP 4

Cut five (5) fourteen (14") cords and one twenty (20") cord. Attach cords to wooden circle using a lark's head Knot. The longest cord (20") on the left side with one end longer than the other. For video assistance on the lark's head Knot in this step and the double half hitch Knot in step 5, you may wish to reference this tutorial: go.illinois.edu/MacrameCharm



STEP 5

With the longest cord, on the left, start tying double half hitch knots. You can watch how to do this style of Knot at: go.illinois.edu/MacrameCharm



STEP 6

Switch directions and tie another row of double half hitch knots moving from right to left.

STEP 7

Brush out the ends of the cords with your comb.



STEP 8

Trim the ends of the cords in a circular direction so they are even and curved.

REFLECTION

- Was there a part of the project that was challenging for you? How did you overcome it?
- Did you discover anything new about yourself while creating your macramé piece?
- Macramé has been around for centuries. How does it feel to create something connected to such a long history?
- How do you feel about the final piece you created? What would you do differently next time?
- How might you use the techniques learned today in a different macramé project?

Help us learn about your involvement in art by scanning the QR code



EXPLORE MORE Did you enjoy this project?

Discover more 4-H Visual Arts opportunities by visiting: 4h.extension.illinois.edu



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN