

Western Hemisphere Region

The Western Hemisphere Region was established in 1940. It has 4 million members in 36 countries. The countries in the Western Hemisphere Region are: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Republic of Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and The Grenadines, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Crafts

Guatemalan Worry Dolls- There is a legend that children can tell their worries to their worry dolls and place them under their pillow while they are sleeping and in the morning their worries will have gone. The dolls



are traditionally quite small and are made from scrap materials, etc. Now you can make your own worry doll although this one is a bit bigger. For this craft you will need a wooden peg, toothpicks, embroidery floss in a variety of colours, glue and scissors. To start you need to wrap the top part of

the body in floss and stop at the waist height. If you want to make a dress then go a bit further. For skirts and trousers pit a different colour and start where you stopped at the waist. Go as far down as you want your skirt to be and stop. For trousers start from the waist and then wrap each individual leg in your chosen colour. To make your arms cut your toothpicks to the length you want and then wrap them in the same colour you started with and glue to the sides of the body and wrap around with some more floss. If you want to give your doll long hair just loop a chosen colour around your finger a couple of times and tie in the middle and then cut at the opposite end and then glue to the head of the doll. Short hair can be made



the same way. Make sure when you are wrapping your floss that you keep it together with no gaps and that you glue down loose ends. Make your doll as fancy as you like, adding accessories or making fancier outfits using fabric rather than floss.

Piñata- Piñatas are believed to have originated from the Aztecs and Mayans who made clay pots in the shape of their Gods. The pots were meant to be broken with sticks so that contents spilled out to signify the favours the people received from the Gods. Try making your own piñata.



Traditionally you would make them out of papier-mâché around a balloon and then decorated with tissue paper and made into a shape. Instead you could make a nice quick and non-messy version. For this version you will need a brown paper bag, newspaper, a length of string and different coloured tissue paper. Fill your paper bag with sweeties leaving some room at the top that you can fill with some balls of newspaper. Then fold over the top a couple of times and staple along the top. Cover your bag with strips of different coloured tissue paper with slits in them to give the tassel look. Continue to add the different strips of paper to you get to the top and then make a hole for your string. Now you can start hitting!

Dream catcher- Native Americans make dream catchers to ward away bad spirits and dreams. They are woven with a hole in the middle to allow good dreams to pass through the hole where as the bad dreams get caught in



the webs. You can make your own dream catchers to keep your dreams nice and peaceful. You need a thin plastic bangle, coloured thread, beads and feathers. First of all tie the thread to the bangle and wrap around it until the entire bangle is wrapped nicely. Then tie a new piece of thread, either in the same colour or different, entirely up to you, and start wrapping it across and round the bangle at different angles to make your web. Make sure you loop the thread round your bangle tightly so the thread doesn't move out of place. When you are satisfied

with the amount of webbing you have then you tie it off on your bangle and cut three new pieces of thread to dangle below your dream catcher. Tie a feather onto the end of each string and add some beads above if you'd like and then tie to the bottom of your dream catcher. Hang it above your bed and you should have nice dreams from now on!

Rain stick- Rain sticks are thought to have originated in Chile or Peru and are often made from cacti. They are dried in the sun and then pebbles are added to the inside where the bounce of the spines which have been stuck into the outside of the cactus. They make a sound similar to rain. You can make your own rain stick using a kitchen roll tube. All you need to do is cover the hole in one end and fill it with a half a cup of something like small pebbles, rice, dried beans, etc. Then cover the other end making sure both ends are covered well so none of your items fall out of your tube. Now you can decorate your tube however you would like. If you would like to create the spines in your rain stick then you could use toothpicks and push them through the tube, although please be careful with the sharp points.



Nazca Lines- The Nazca lines are a famous collection of lines known as geoglyphs drawn in the Nazca dessert in Peru. These lines can only be seen from the sky and do not appear to resemble anything at ground level. These lines are not only simple shapes but also complicated pictures of animals and humans. These lines have puzzled scholars as to how they were made without any way of seeing from above and what their purpose is. Why not try and make your own Nazca lines? These lines are made by removing the stones from the surface of the dessert to reveal the white sand beneath. For yours you could use objects to out along the floor such as paper or materials to make your lines. Why not try making a giant picture that can only be seen properly from above? Similar to what they used to do on Art Attack but a bit smaller.

Many people made giant 100's for the centenary year, sometimes out of people!

Food

The Western Hemisphere is a large region and consists of a variety of foods. Many of the South American countries have Spanish and Mexican style cuisine.

- Chorizo
- Empanadas
- Vatapa (Brazilian dish containing bread, shrimps, coconut milk, peanuts and palm oil made into a paste)
- Guinea Pig?!
- Tamales
- Tacos
- Rice and Peas
- Corn Bread
- Hamburger
- Chowder
- Jerk Chicken
- Bake and Shark (Deep Fried Battered Shark Sandwich)
- Chimichanga



Learning

Western Hemisphere Region Members-

Take a look at some members from the Western Hemisphere. What sort of uniform do they wear? What sort of activities do they do within their meetings? What is their promise?



Cookie Seller- The Girl Scouts of America have a cookie selling programme where the Girl Scouts sell cookies to raise money for various activities. Although making money is the target of the programme it is also essential that the girls learn some great skills in life, such as dealing with

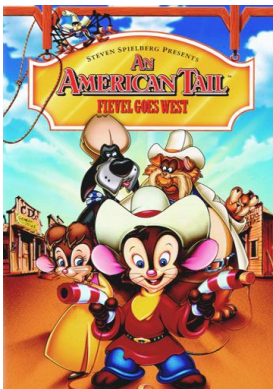
money, people skills, goal setting, working in a team, etc. All the money raised goes towards the girls and activities they are involved in. The cookies they



sell are produced by official bakeries and are available in eight different varieties. Although you cannot use an official bakery you could as a unit bake cookies and sell them to family and friends or possibly at a coffee morning to raise funds for an activity your unit would like to do. Cookie selling is an important part of the Girl Scouts in America and you can even earn awards for

selling them and taking part.

Haiti/Chile Earthquakes- Early this year two countries in the Western Hemisphere Region were hit by catastrophic earthquakes. Many people died in these tragic disasters and towns were severely damaged. Although the Chilean Earthquake was stronger measuring 8.8 on the Richter scale, the Haiti Earthquake has seen thousands more victims and a lot more damage. These countries have yet to get themselves back to normal and Haiti is being described as very much the same as it was in the days after the earthquake, they have yet to begin building work and people are still living in temporary camps. Take a look at what these countries have gone through and think about what would happen if your country suffered the same disaster. You could do a fundraising to send money to the charities that are involved in assisting these countries and countries that have had similar disasters. Did the girl guides in these countries have any involvement in the aid work? The badge above was designed by a fellow Guider to raise funds for Unicef to help Haiti.



Books and Films- Probably the most famous movie genre to come out of the Western Hemisphere is the Western films all about the Wild West of America. You could have a cowboy themed night and sit and watch a Western film as a unit. You could even come in fancy dress.

Mardi Gras- Mardi Gras is a festival style celebration that begins on or after the epiphany and ends the day before Ash Wednesday. Mardi Gras is French for 'Fat Tuesday' and it is known as such because it is the last day before lent when people can eat rich and fatty foods before fasting. The celebration in some cities has become famous around the world and probably the best-known examples are Rio de Janeiro in Brazil and New Orleans in America. During this celebration people go out in spectacular outfits, often brightly coloured and including a mask and people often have parades through the streets. Have a look at what some cities do for Mardi Gras. What sort of outfits they wear, etc. Why not hold your own mini Mardi Gras? You don't have to wait for Shrove Tuesday to come around but you could give up something similar to how you do for lent the day after your celebrations to make it more significant.

