

# Dreamcatchers

## Topic: United States Studies - American Indians

**Core Curriculum Standard(s):** 6050-02 Students trace the development and expansion of the United States through the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Objective: 6050-0203 Analyze expansion of the United States from the Civil War to 1900.

Describe the impact of expansion on the American Indians; e.g., loss of land, reservations, lifestyle.

### Essential Question #8: How were lifestyles affected by the westward expansion?

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Learning Strategy: Dreamcatchers

Students will understand the significance of Dreamcatchers in Indian culture.

#### The Legend of the Dreamcatcher

The dreamcatcher is used as a token of good luck. Legend states that dreams are messages from sacred spirits. Its job is to sift the dreams of those sleeping nearby. The dreamcatcher represents the web of life. The bad dreams are caught on the web and disappear in the morning sun. The good dreams pass through the center hole, slide down the feather and are fulfilled in your destiny.

Dreamcatchers are often decorated with semi-precious stones and figures of sacred meaning that add special strengths to the owner. Throughout the earth there can be found many semi-precious stones. Each one is believed to contain the power to spread blessings to all mankind. Discover for yourself the treasures hidden within the stones and celebrate in the adventure of your dreams.

Dreamcatchers are also hung on cradles and carried in ceremonies or at celebrations. Among some plains tribes a dreamcatcher is the symbol of love and dedication that will last for many future generations.

Design and make a dreamcatcher. Website with instructions for making a dreamcatcher from Native American Technology and Art <http://www.nativetech.org/dreamcat/dreminst.html>