

What do I need?

Paper plate

Scissors

Yellow and orange twine

Ribbon
(sunny colours)



summer solstice weaving

What do I do?

Look at page 2 to learn about the summer solstice, which happens in June in the northern hemisphere.

Cut small grooves around the edge of your plate about 1cm apart (see picture above). This will form the frame for you to weave on.

Wind the yellow twine around your plate and tie it in a double knot at the back.

With the length still attached to the twine ball weave the twine around the plate. The grooves will hold each piece of twine in place.

Weave the twine around the plate groove by groove for a star effect or go free-style and criss-cross it in any direction.

For a more colourful design, switch to the orange twine part-way through your weaving.

Once you've finished weaving, tie ribbons onto the twine at the bottom of your design so they hang down as in the picture above.

Finally, tie a length of twine at the top of your design so you can hang your solstice weaving in a window for everyone to enjoy.

summer solstice

"midsummer"

The summer solstice happens once a year in each hemisphere when the sun reaches its highest position in the sky on the day with the longest period of daylight. In the northern hemisphere, this is on or around June 21.

Also known as *midsummer* or *estival solstice*, the summer solstice is celebrated in many cultures in the form of festivals and rituals. In Cornwall in England for example, it is celebrated by lighting a relay of bonfires on the highest points along the moors. Furthermore, in the very south of Cornwall there is the Golowan Festival, which in Cornish means 'midsummer'. The festival ends with an exciting street festival filled with music and colour (see right-bottom picture).

In Spain, the summer solstice is also the celebration of St John the Baptist in the Christian church. People light bonfires called tequeos or 'people of the dance' and there are magnificent firework displays to behold too.

Way back in the Neolithic period (the end of the Stone Age) the summer solstice was related to the timings of crop cycles. People customarily lit bonfires to boost the strength of the sun to ensure a healthy harvest. It's believed that some significant stone arrangements were also formed during this time to follow the movement of the sun during the solstice. The most famous of these is Stonehenge in Wiltshire, where today many people still journey to witness the summer solstice each year.



Image by Aspects Holidays | <https://www.aspects-holidays.co.uk/blog/events/golowan-festival>