

What do I need?

Two sticks, 30-50cm long

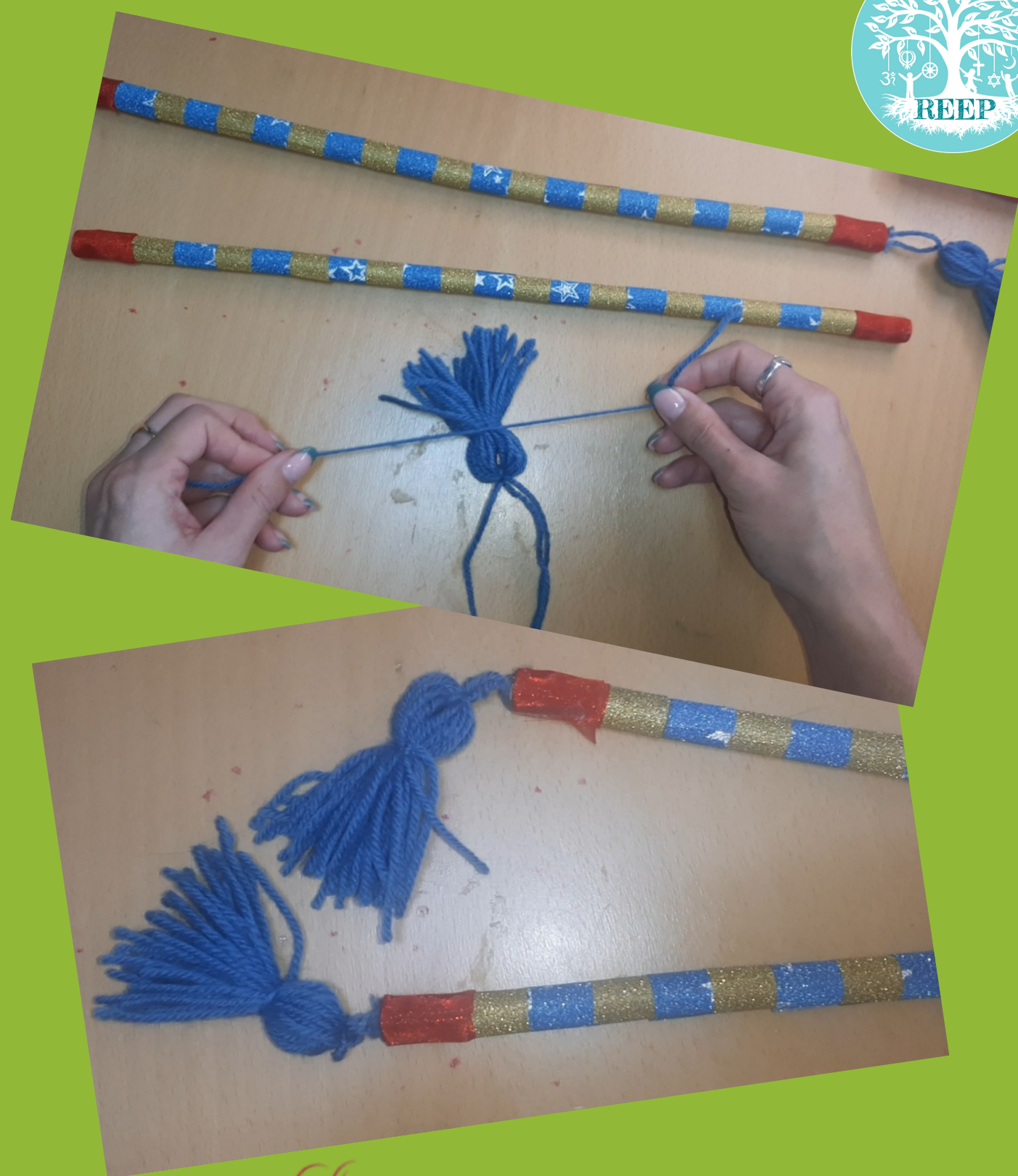
Coloured ribbon

Patterned tape

Coloured wool

Glue

Scissors



Dandiya sticks



What do I do?

Look at page 2 to learn about Dandiya and their use in the Hindu harvest festival, *Sharada Navaratri*.

Decorate your sticks by wrapping patterned tape and coloured ribbon around them. You can use as many colours and patterns as you like. Try to decorate your Dandiya sticks the same so they look like a matching pair.

Create a tassel for the end of your first stick by looping wool around the fingers of one hand 12 or more times. The more wool you use the thicker your tassel will be. Tie a length of wool around the top of your wool loops to secure them together - this will be the part you attach to your stick.

Remove the wool from your fingers then cut through the bottom of the loops to create tassel-like threads. Next, wrap a length of wool around the loops 1-2cm from the top. Now, glue the top of your tassel to the end of your stick.

Repeat the last 2 steps to create a tassel for your second stick.

You can see a video of the Dandiya dance here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00eQ5M09Ttl&ab_channel=WildFilmsIndia



Dandiya and Sharada Navaratri

Sharada Navaratri is a Hindu harvest festival celebrated over 9 days and nights in September or October each year. It honours the goddess, *Durga* and the victory of good over evil (see picture, right). Hindus see Durga as the protective mother of the universe, caring of all that is good and harmonious in the world. As well as celebrating Durga, Hindus pay tribute to many other important deities, including *Saraswati*, the goddess of knowledge, and *Lakshmi*, the goddess of wealth and fortune.

Celebrations vary, with some communities choosing to fast and others enjoying great feasts of traditional foods. Homes and businesses are often decorated with colourful ornaments and in some regions custom to hold traditional.

Dandiya or *Dandiya Raas* is a Gujarati folk dance traditionally held during Sharada Navaratri. Dancers use a pair of decorated bamboo sticks, striking these together in a rhythmic beat. Originally the dance was performed by men with swords instead of sticks, but now it is performed by both women and men.



Image by Ramakrishna Reddy Y | https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:2010_Durga_Puja_Barisha_Pandal.jpg
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