

High Rising Migiziwag Mobile

With the help of paper, glue, and scissors, you can make a mobile that will let the migiziwag (eagles) rise just as they do on thermals in Wisconsin. Migizi (bald eagle) makes it look as if it takes no effort at all for it to rise to great heights above the earth's surface. This skill is a combination of two things: the differences in how quickly different parts of the earth's surface heat up and the broad wings of the eagle.

During the day, as the sun shines down on the surface of the earth, some places warm up faster than others. This is because some places absorb more of the sun's heat than others. For example, land warms up more quickly than water and a parking lot heats up faster than a grassy field.

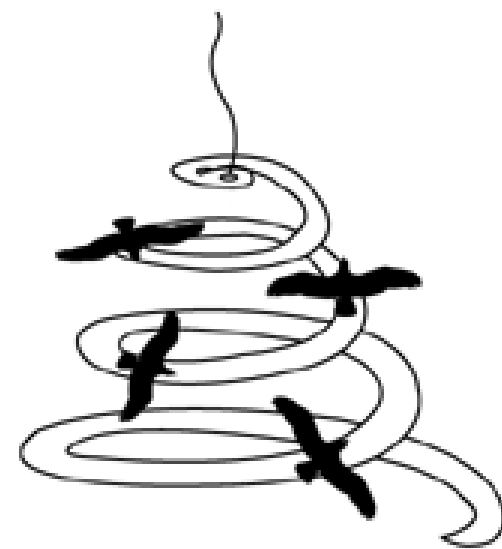
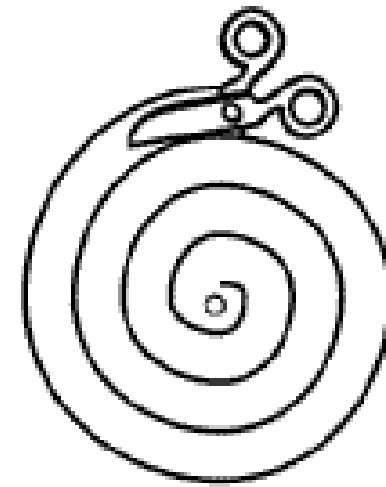
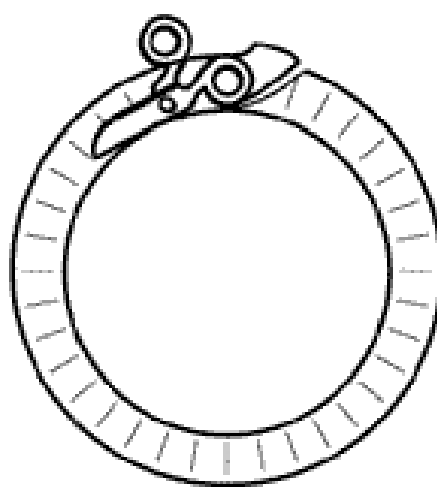
Different temperatures on the earth's surface cause the air above these surfaces to also have different temperatures. Air over land heats up more quickly than air over water. When the warm air over the land is next to the cooler air over the water, forces are set up that make the warmer air rise above the cooler air. This rising part of the air is called a thermal. Migizi's wings are specially adapted to take advantage of these rising thermals of air.

What you'll need:

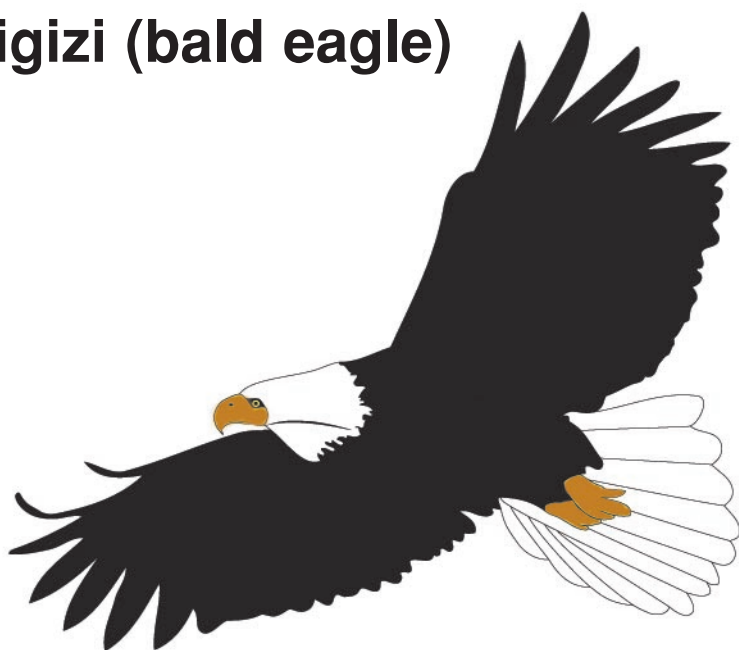
one white paper plate, scissors, glue, and thread

Here's what you do:

1. Cut out the four migizi silhouettes below, then set them aside.
2. Cut the ribbed edge off of the paper plate. Using the middle of the paper plate, start on one side and begin to cut in a spiral toward the center. Each part of the spiral should be about 1/2 inch wide. You may want to draw a line to cut along.
3. Glue the migizi silhouettes along the spiral as if they were circling upward. Glue the migiziwag by their bodies and bend their wings slightly upward.
4. With a hole punch make a hole in the center of the inside loop for hanging. Attach a thread and hang up your mobile. If you hang your mobile near a heat source, it will spin and the migiziwag will look like they are rising with the warm air.



migizi (bald eagle)



Caution: Do not hang your mobile so that it might touch a heat source. Remember, it's made of paper and will burn easily.



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