

Do you know what a maypole is?

May Day (the first of May) is celebrated throughout the world with annual festivals that celebrate the coming of spring. The Celts called this festival Beltane. While the Druids celebrated with a bonfire, many Celts celebrated with what we now call a
MAYPOLE.

A maypole was usually a birch tree because birch trees grow straight and tall. The tree would have flowers and streamers attached and folks would do a maypole dance weaving the streamers around and around in a criss-cross pattern. Sometimes this maypole dance would have the boys going clockwise and girls going counter-clockwise while weaving the streamers.

In some cultures the maypole was a symbol of the Tree of Life. In Ireland there is a different version called a Bile Pole. Sometimes there is a May Queen selected as queen for the day. She might make rules for the day and give prizes. The end result of the day would be joy and merriment for everyone.

Copy and color the following coloring page of maypole dancers.

For a fun activity take the cardboard tube from a roll of paper towels. Tape long streamers or ribbons to one end. Add flowers too to make it festive. Now you have your own personal size maypole!

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