

Weaving with found material

Lesson plan prepared by Rebecca Crofts, Gallery Animator.

Suggested Grade/Age Levels

Recommended for ages 8+ but can be modified for little ones

Introduction

In today's activity, we will be creating a wonderful multi-media tapestry that you can hang on your wall. You can use a wide variety of natural and found materials to make your tapestry at home!

Gathering materials can start with a walk around your house, your yard, or the block. With help from a parent or guardian you can begin to think about what you might like to include in your tapestry.

Set Up:

Set up a comfortable spot where you will have lots of room to have your materials out in front of you, and where it is safe to use scissors. A tabletop outside or inside would work well.

Materials:

- Yarn or string
- Cardboard
- Scissors
- A marker or pen
- A selection of found materials to include in your weaving.



Charlotte Lindgren
Ditty Bag, 1970
Celaspun, acrylic rod
182.9 x 61.0 cm
Collection of the Art
Gallery of Nova Scotia,
gift of the Artist, Halifax,
Nova Scotia, 2005



Process:

1. Cut a piece of cardboard into a rectangle a little bit bigger than the size you would like your finished tapestry to be.
2. Using a ruler and a marker, mark on both the top and the bottom (short sides) of your rectangle about half an inch apart. Then, with scissors, carefully cut each of the lines to create slots where your yarn will go.



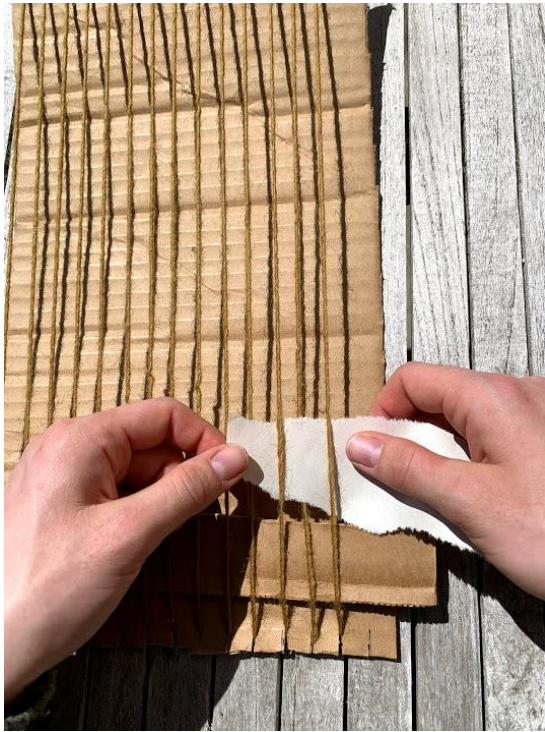
3. Choose your first yarn – one that is relatively thin. Slide your yarn into the first cut you made at the top of your cardboard, making sure to leave a few inches as a tail. It's really important that you keep that tail because you will use it at the end.
4. Pull the yarn down to the first cut on the opposite end, then wrap it around pulling it back up to the top. Continue this pattern until you have filled the front of your cardboard.



5. When you get to the end, leave a few inches as a tail on the other side as well.
6. You can take a piece of spare cardboard and slide it behind the strings, tucking it down at the bottom of your cardboard. This will help elevate the strings and make it a little easier to weave.
7. Begin to weave! Choose from your selection of materials which you would like to start with. Begin by sliding the material under the first string and then over the following string, continuing that pattern until you have made it to the other side of your cardboard loom.

Remember, in the next row, you will have to use the opposite strings to weave the material.
For example, if you started under-over-under-over, the next row will have to start over-under-over-under.





8. Continue this until you have made it about an inch away from the top of your cardboard loom.

Finishing your tapestry



1. First, carefully take the loops off the bottom end of your loom. Once they are off, going from left to right, tie each individual loop in a knot. Do this all the way across to secure the tapestry.



2. Next, carefully remove the tapestry from the top of the cardboard. From left to right, start by tying the tail with the first loop. For the top, follow the same tying process as you did for the bottom of your tapestry. You should be left with your two tail strings; you can tie them together and use them to hang your finished tapestry!

