



Textile Museum of Canada

CANADIAN TAPESTRY
THE FABRIC OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Online Exhibition
Textile Activities for Students
Kindergarten to Grade 4

- Make Yarn Shapes
- Make a Yarn Painting
- Weave a Bookmark

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Make Yarn Shapes (K – Grade 1)

Integrated Curricula: Social Studies, Mathematics and Visual Art

Summary:

Students look at the Huichol Yarn Painting (TS03.23.1) in the Canadian Tapestry “Stories” theme to see a picture made entirely of yarn pressed into wax. They can also look in the same theme at the Egyptian Tapestry (T96.0194) depicting shepherds and their flocks to see yarns woven to make a picture. Then students experiment with yarns and coloured tiles to investigate perimeter and area.

Social Studies Expectations

- (Canada and World Connections) learn about ways of life in different parts of the world

Mathematics Expectations

- identify and sort two-dimensional shapes
- cover a surface with regular shapes

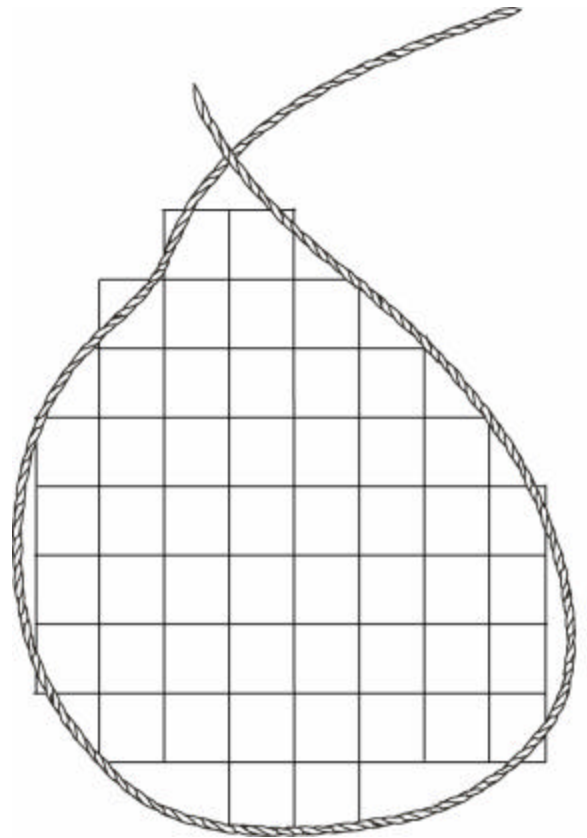
Visual Art Expectations

- (Knowledge of elements) identify line and colour as elements of design
- (Creative work) solve problems creatively
- (Critical thinking) describe some aspects of visual art forms from a variety of cultures

Materials: yarn or string, 2-cm coloured tiles, either commercial or made from construction paper, a large piece of newsprint per child, tape, a copy of either the Journey of Tunuri or The Squiggle (see Books, below).

Description:

1. (Teacher) Read either book to the class.
2. (Student) Measure and cut a piece of yarn as long as your arm.
3. Lay the yarn on a piece of newsprint in a shape and then fill its inner space with tiles. The rule is, the tiles must touch each other on all sides except for the outside ones. Think of your bathroom or kitchen floor at home and how all the tiles fit together (tessellate) with no overlaps and no gaps.
4. Try several shapes and then glue down the yarn and tiles once you have picked your favourite.
5. Name the design, putting the number of tiles in the name, e.g. the “twenty-twos triangle.”



Extensions:

Make a pattern with different coloured tiles within the yarn shape.

Books:

- *The Journey of Tunuri and the Blue Deer* by James Endredy, Bear Cub Books, 2003. A contemporary adaptation of an indigenous Huichol teaching tale, illustrated with traditional yarn drawings by Huichol artists.
- *The Squiggle* by Carole Lexa Schaefer, Crown Publishers, 1996. A story about a child's imaginative use of a piece of string.

Make a Yarn Painting (Grades 2 – 4)

Integrated Curricula: Social Studies and Visual Art

Summary:

Students look at the Huichol Yarn Painting (TS03.23.1) in the Canadian Tapestry “Stories” theme to see a picture made entirely of yarn pressed into wax. They can also look in the same theme at the Egyptian Tapestry (T96.0194) of shepherds and their flocks to see yarns woven to make a picture. Then students make a yarn painting of their own design to illustrate a scene from a story they have written.

Social Studies Expectations

- Learn about communities in different parts of the world

Visual Art Expectations

- (Knowledge of elements) identify the elements of design, especially line, colour and shape
- (Creative work) produce two-dimensional works of art with a variety of materials
- (Critical thinking) describe some aspects of visual art forms from a variety of cultures

Materials: thick, stiff card cut to 15 x 15-cm size, clear double-sided tape, sport weight wool, acrylic or cotton yarns in several colours

Description:

1. (Teacher) Read *The Journey of Tunuri and the Blue Deer* (see Books, below) to the class. Cut a piece of card for each student.
2. (Student) Draw a simple picture on one side of the card to illustrate a scene, using the Huichol Yarn Painting or the Egyptian Tapestry as inspiration. Simplify the drawing with clear shapes and no shading.
3. Cover the card completely with strips of double-sided tape. The drawing will be visible under the tape. Younger students will need help with this step. Remove the tape’s protective backing.
4. Select different colours of yarn and press them on the card, following the lines and shapes in your drawing. Continue until you have covered the card completely with yarn, using colours to make the yarn painting.

Extensions:

The class as a whole can write a story and students, working individually or in groups, can illustrate chapters in the story with yarn paintings.

Books:

- *The Journey of Tunuri and the Blue Deer* by James Endredy, Bear Cub Books, 2003. A contemporary adaptation of an indigenous Huichol teaching tale, illustrated with traditional yarn drawings by Huichol artists.

Weave a Bookmark

Integrated Curricula: Science and Art:

Summary:

Students look at the Peruvian Shawl (T04.35.15) in the Canadian Tapestry “Workings” theme to learn about the workings of a loom and to see a textile with a simple striped pattern. They can also look in the “Origins” theme at the Chinese panel (T90.0357) to see fine silk yarns woven into a detailed picture. Students then experiment with weaving on a small card loom to make a striped bookmark.

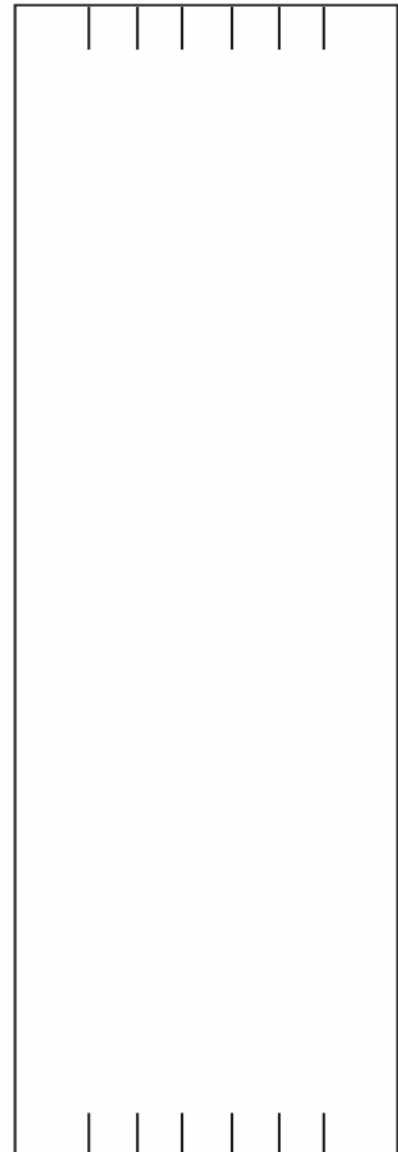
Science Expectations

- (Structures and mechanisms) investigate stability, movement and the action of levers as principles used in making textiles

Visual Art Expectations

- (Knowledge of elements) identify elements of visual images such as colours and variations in shapes and size
- (Creative work) use a variety of tools and materials in creating art works or making presentations
- (Critical thinking) describe how the use of line, colour and shape can create patterns that are more or less aesthetically pleasing

Materials: stiff card, string for warps, any kind of yarn for wefts, tapestry needles, scissors.



Description:

1. Kindergarten students can first try weaving with 2 x 20-cm strips of coloured construction paper to get familiar with the over-one, under-one pattern of inserting the weft.
2. (Teacher) Cut card looms (template at right) out of stiff card. Cut slits in either end as shown.
3. (Student) String the card loom with warp threads: slip one end of string into the slit at the upper right. Leave a 15-cm tail for tying. Next, slip the string into the slit at the lower right. Wrap the string around the back of the card and slip it into the second upper slit, then the second lower slit, and so on until you have 6 warps. Cut the string so there is a 15-cm tail at the back, and tie the tails together to secure them.

4. To weave, use any yarn as weft and pass it over and under the warps in alternating order until the card is full. For easier weaving, thread the yarn onto a tapestry needle.
5. Once you are weaving successfully with one colour at a time, making horizontal stripes, try alternating two colours to see what patterns you can create. Vertical strips are also possible by weaving first one colour of weft, then another.
6. When the warps are filled with weft yarns, gently remove the weaving from the card. Tie the warps in threes in an overhand knot to make fringe.