A Woven World
Teaching Youth Diversity through Weaving

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Weaving on a Cardboard Loom
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Definition of terms:
- **Warp**: The cords running lengthwise/vertically around the loom. Cord or string used for warping the loom should be strong with little stretch. The smaller the warp thread, the tighter the weaving and less prominent the cord will be in the finished product.
- **Weft**: Any yarn, fabric, string, etc. that is woven over and under the warp cords. Any variety of materials can be used for the weft since strength is not a great concern.

Making a Cardboard Loom
Cut a stiff piece of cardboard:
- 4 inches wider than the desired weaving (2 inches on each side).
- 6 inches longer than the desired weaving (3 inches on each end).
- Draw lines across the board 1/2 inch from each end.
- Measure warp lines 1/4 inch apart.
- Cut on the marked lines to make notches.
  You are ready to warp!
Warping the Loom:
- Knot and tape the end of the warp thread to the back of the loom. (see figure 2)
- Bring warp thread through the first cut notch to the front of the loom.
- Maintain an even tension—go through the notch on the opposite end of the board.
- Continue working from notch to notch until loom is warped (see figure 2).
- Warp should be taut and spring back when touched lightly.
- Knot and tape end to back of loom.

Begin weaving....
1. The first step to begin weaving is to twine the first three rows. The twining is used to secure the rest of the woven project.
   - Using a piece of lightweight string approximately 3 yards long, fold in half around the first warp thread.
   - Take the thread in front over and behind thread two...

- Continue until you have three rows of twining. The twining should follow the 3” mark on your loom.
- Start weaving your project with yarn or fabric strips in a basic or tabby over-under weave. The basic weave consists of moving the weft over one, under one on the warp thread. The following row will alternate the over, under pattern. (For the first row, leave about a 3” tail to weave back between the first 2 rows.)
- When the weaving is about 1/4” from the 3” pencil mark at the top of the loom, do 3 more rows of twining.
- Cut the warp threads close to the warp notches and knot two warp threads together to secure your weaving.
Helpful Hints

- Always weave with the bottom toward you, weaving upward.
- Keep an even tension. An extremely tight tension will cause the cardboard loom to become unstable.
- Pack rows down to prevent an uneven appearance.
- Keep your weaving edges lined up with the 2" side marks on the loom. You will need to work to keep the sides straight--they will have a natural tenancy to pull in.
- When changing from one fabric to another, overlap 2-3 warp threads to avoid sewing or bulk.
Weaving Resources
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Resources for Teachers:
http://www.dickblick.com/multicultural/burlapweaving/ (Native American Burlap Weaving Lesson Plan)

http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/content/2380/ (Lesson Plan Life of a Navajo Weaver)


http://jeffcoweb.jeffco.k12.co.us/passport/lessonplan/lessons/lalloronacjd.html (Multicultural Lesson plan)

http://www.eastern.edu/publications/emme/2000fall/hansell.html (Multicultural Education)

http://www.ethnomath.org/search/browseResources.asp?type=subject&id=393 (Resources on weaving and baskets. Polynesia, Tonga and Plaited baskets of Maori)

http://www.kidsculturecenter.com/multicult/multicult_toy.htm (Multicultural kits for educators)

http://kwikcrafts.com/crafts/category/Cultural-Craf.html (Multicultural crafts for children)

http://www.answers.com/topic/multicultural-education-curriculum Multicultural Education/ (Curriculum)


http://www.wirral- (School Library service – resources for teachers)

http://www.lanl.gov/orgs/dvo/WOWCalendar/Foods.html (Weaving our worlds - foods and celebrations)


http://www.4children.org/news/999divrs.htm (Preparing children for a multicultural world)
Multicultural Weaving:

http://www.friendsofbosnia.org/_news/93_kilim_exhibit.html (Weaving for Hope – Balkan Development)

http://manderson.home.igc.org/teacherguide2/lesson1a.html (Maya Arts and Crafts of Guatemala. Lesson plan)

http://www.nmafa.si.edu/exhibits/malagasy/index.html (Textile Arts of Madagascar)


http://www.inventions.org/culture/female/mothers.html (Straw and silk weaving)

http://www.artnatam.com/ Native American Arts

http://www.nativetech.org/weave/index.php (Native American weaving)

http://www.eternalegypt.org/EternalEgyptWebsiteWeb/HomeServlet?ee_website_action_key=action.display.module&module_id=225&language_id=1&story_id=31 (Weaving Textiles in Ancient Egypt)

http://womenshistory.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http://www.aasianst.org/EAA/silkroad.htm (Weaving along the Silk Road)

Books

http://www.uh.edu/hti/cu/2003/7/12.pdf (Using Multicultural Children’s Literature to Develop understanding and acceptance of diversity)

http://www.schoolatlas.com/search2/History/Ancient_Civilizations/index.html (History of Ancient Civilizations)

http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/Multiculturalbooklst2000.html (Multicultural book list)
Weaving History
http://www.alientravelguide.com/art/weaving/history/ (History of Weaving)

http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/clothing/weaving.htm (Weaving History for Kids)

http://www.stringpage.com/tw/tw.html (resources for weaving—includes twill)


http://www.mythinglinks.org/ct~weaving.html (Weaving Arts and Lore)

http://womenshistory.about.com/library/weekly/aa020722a.htm (Women and weaving)


http://www.nationalgeographic.com/egyptjournal/photogalleries/saqqara/photo5.html (National Geographic picture of Egyptian children weaving)

http://www.touregypt.net/godsofegypt/tayet.htm (Article about Tayet—goddess of weaving)