

Weaving

In this lesson, we will learn about the process of weaving, what materials are used, and what can be made. After looking at examples from Latin America, and from the AD&A Museum, you can try paper weaving at home!

What?



What is weaving?

Weaving is similar to the process of braiding. People use strand-like, long strips of materials, and put them together in an under-over motion to make them come together and make a stronger finished product you can wear or use. The two things you see above are things made through weaving.



Questions to Think About:

- How big do you think the materials used to make your shirts were? What about the carpet or rugs?

Materials



A variety of materials can be used while weaving, such as leaves, cotton, wool, silk, and tree bark. Softer, more flexible materials are usually used for our clothes and blankets, while stiffer stronger materials are used for baskets.

How?



Hand Weaving



Loom Weaving



Back-Strap Loom

There are multiple ways to weave. Handweaving is a way to create baskets with harder materials such as branches. Weaving looms help hold materials to make cloth textiles. The backstrap loom is attached to the weaver's body and is also used to make materials like clothes. In all cases, it is important that the materials go over and under each other.

When?

**27,000
Years
Ago**



Neolithic Clothing Fragment, 5000 BCE



Unku (tunic), Chancay, 1000-1470.



Maximo Laura, Lima, Peru. 2017.

Today!

Weaving is believed to be one of the oldest crafts in the world, started in prehistoric times which is about 27,000 years ago! People first used plant leaves and branches to make them into fabrics for clothes, blankets, and baskets. Today weaving is also used to make big pieces for decoration.

These examples depict weaving throughout time and space from 5000 BCE, until today.

Why?



Can you identify these items that were made through weaving? Can you think of more things around you that might be woven?

Where?



Weaving is done all over the world with especially popular weaving cultures are in Guatemala and the Andes of Peru and created by the Mayans and the Navajo.

Why?



Clothing



Falsa Blanket



Miwok Chef's Basket



Rugs

Weaving was first done for functionality to help people live. Over time, items such as clothes that used to be made through weaving began to be made in large amounts. Items that are weaved are handmade and take a long time to create. This made them more valuable and people began to see weaving more like an art form.

Now, let's look at some examples!

Questions to think about when looking at examples:

What do you think about the colors and designs?

How do you think it was made?

What shapes or figures do you see?

What do you think this was made for?

Examples



Headband, Wari, 600-850, camelid fiber and cotton.

This piece is from Native Mari people in modern-day Peru where the dry weather helped to keep the color in tact. If you look closely you can see each individual fiber that has been woven together to form the one piece.



Unku (tunic), Chancay, 1000-1470, cotton and camelid fiber.

This piece is made by the Chancay, also located in modern-day Peru. This piece is made from alpaca wool and dyed cotton. This type of clothing was the main item of dress for men. The combination of materials most likely meant that it was made for someone with power.



Maximo Laura, Lima, Peru. 2017.



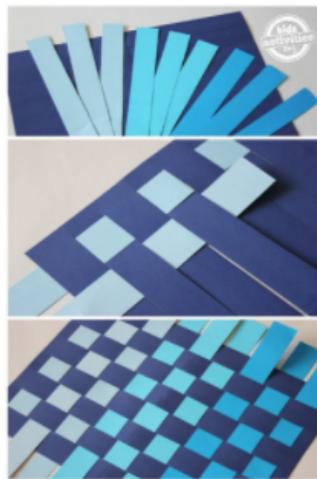
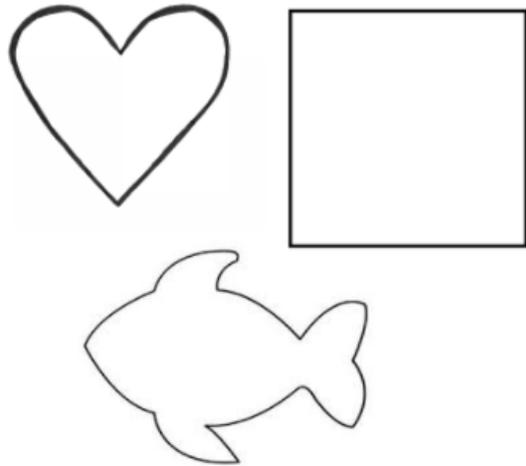
This piece shows a modern way that weaving is used. The artist goes through multiple steps to make a piece like this one. First, he draws his idea, and then he paints the image to decide what colors to use. Once they get the yarn, they use a loom to pull it together into one big piece.

Navajo,
Rug, 1920-40s,
Wool weft, cotton
warp.



This piece is a part of the collections at the Art Design & Architecture Museum! This Rug is an example of the Native American Navajo weaving practices. This style of weaving was initially used for blankets, though over time the purpose changed to be used as rugs and wall decorations.

Activity



For our activity, we will do some paper weaving! Help children draw and cut outlines such as a heart or fish, or even a blank page of construction paper will work. Adults, please fold the chosen outline in half, either horizontal or vertical, and cut parallel lines across the page about half an inch apart starting on the folded edge. Make sure to leave a one-inch, uncut border around the two sides and the top unfolded edges (Row A). Also cut about half an inch-wide strips that are at least one inch longer than the outline, opposite to the direction of the cuts (Row B). Open up the cut outline and help children with the start of the weaving process, so that they can get use to the under over motion through the slots you have cut (Row C). For extra help, you can tape or glue the end of the strips of paper to the back of the outline to keep the strips in place, and trim the extra length of strips if they are longer they stick out from outline. Children can use colored paper or color their finished product for extra creativity time. (Visual Aid Below)

