

Title: Woven Paper Art

Grade Level: K-5

Objective: Students will explore weaving with paper and learn about the traditions of weaving in Latin American Cultures.



Lesson Plan

Materials: scissors, glue, construction paper, glue (as needed), colored pencils/markers.

Opening Activity: Have students WEAVE their fingers together by interlacing fingers. Traditional weaving can be found in many cultures but is usually associated with the cultures of Latin America, particularly the indigenous people of South America. These skills are passed down generationally between families where master weavers teach younger members of the community this complex art form. Learn more about traditional weaving and folk art [HERE: https://youtu.be/apLI5H1usIM](https://youtu.be/apLI5H1usIM)

Core Activity: We are weaving paper animals!

- Distribute scissors and 1 sheet of construction paper to members- this will be the BODY of the animal.
- Cut a BIG oval shape out of the paper, then fold oval shape in half. Draw a line about .5 inch from the top edge of the folded piece.
- From the fold, make irregular cuts up to the line. Cuts can be curvy, wavy, jagged or even created with decorative edge scissors. Unfold the sheet and lay it flat. This will serve as the "loom."
- Distribute more construction paper to members, have them cut strips of paper about an inch wide. NOTE: it may work better to pre-cut these prior to class.
- Begin by weaving one "thread" or paper strip over one of the strips on the loom then under the next, then over the next, etc. Continue this process alternating over and under with each row. When the weaving is finished, adjust strips to make sure they are straight, then apply a tiny amount of glue to the outside edges to hold the weave in place.
- Then have students create the extra elements to build their animal out of additional pieces of paper, as needed: head, legs, eyes, tail.

Reflection: All of our clothing is constructed by weaving threads together into a web of cloth. As students help clean up the space, ask them to consider what their lives would be like if they had to make all their own clothes, rather than buying them from a store.