ACTIVITY

Simple Weaving
Class time: 20–30 minutes

MATERIALS

- 6 x 8 in. piece of cardboard and two 1/2 in. cardboard strips
- Utility knife or scissors
- Ruler
- Glue
- Yarn
- Plastic needle
- Masking tape
- Clear tape
- Twigs

METHOD

STEP 1: Create a Loom

1. Draw a straight line with a pencil and ruler about 1/2 inch from both the top and bottom of the cardboard. Measure in 1 inch and make a hash mark. Make an additional 12 hash marks about 3/8 inches apart all across the top. Do the same at the bottom.

2. Using a utility knife, or scissors, cut along each hash mark, stopping at the 1/2-inch line.

3. Glue on the strips of cardboard at the top and bottom so that they align with the 1/2-inch line.
Create a Loom continued...

4. Cut 12 pieces of yarn and thread each notch, making sure to leave a tail of about 3 inches on the back. Tape these ends to the back with clear tape. Make sure the threads are fairly tight (but not so tight that it’s stretching the yarn). These vertical threads are called the warp.
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STEP 2: Make the Weaving

1. Cut a piece of yarn about 2 feet long. Thread it through the plastic needle.

2. Starting with the first warp thread, slide the needle underneath and then up over the next thread, and then back under the third thread, and so on. Use this under-over pattern until you get to the last warp thread. When you get to the end of your first row, pull it through all the way, leaving about a 3-inch tail.

3. For your next row, go back the other way by doing the opposite over-under pattern as you did for the first row.

4. Once you have a few rows, use your fingers to push up the weft yarn so that it’s snug. Be careful not to pull too hard on the weft yarns after each pass through because your weaving will start to cinch in at the middle.

5. When you are done with your first color yarn, or if you decide you want to switch colors, simply end it with about a 3-inch tail remaining.

6. Start the next colors in the same way you started the first, leaving a tail of about 3 inches.
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Make the Weaving continued...

7. When you get to the end, just cut off the yarn that you are working with, leaving a 3-inch tail.
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STEP 2: Take Your Weaving Off the Loom

1. When you are finished, undo the clear tape in the back and carefully pull off the warp threads. Be careful because the weft threads can come off easily.

2. When your entire weaving has been pulled off of the loom, tie all of the warp threads together at the ends. Tie 1 & 2 together, 3 & 4 together, and so on. You should have six knots at the top and bottom. Tie double knots.

3. Thread the 3-inch tails on the sides through the needle, and weave them through the back a few times before trimming them. You can also tape the tails to the back with masking tape.

4. Use masking take to tape down the top and bottom warp threads to the back of your weaving. Your weaving is now complete.
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Adapted from: http://www.artbarblog.com/weaving-kids/