

# LESSON PLAN: WEAVING

Author: Maple Ridge Museum

Subjects and Grade Level: Social Studies (Gr. 3)

Objectives: Foster a better understanding of the technologies used by First Nations People both locally and globally and how those technologies are interconnected.

## Materials:

Styrofoam tray, yarn, scissors, tape, something to use as a shuttle (a popsicle stick, a plastic knife, a bone tool etc.), a yarn needle.

## For detailed instructions:

[https://ourhouse.typepad.com/full\\_circle/2008/04/over-under-over.html](https://ourhouse.typepad.com/full_circle/2008/04/over-under-over.html)

## Additional Notes:

## POSSIBLE OPENING QUESTIONS:

How do you think cloth is made? Who do you think invented cloth? Which cultures do you associate with unique and intricate clothing? How do you think they make that clothing?

## PROCEDURE/STEPS:

1. Open with a discussion about weaving and the cloth that it makes. Include information about how the archeological record suggests that weaving was independently created by a number of different cultures including the ancient Egyptians, the indigenous people of North and South America, ancient Turkish people and ancient China.
2. Explain how to weave (instructions in link above).
3. Let the children weave their coasters and help them where needed.
4. Finish with a closing discussion.

## DISCUSSION AND REVIEW:

Discussion question ideas: Why do you think that weaving was independently created by different cultures? Who do you think would have been responsible for weaving in these cultures? Why do you think the Salish people are known for their weaving?

## ASSESSMENT:

## ENRICHMENT:

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- There is some evidence that weaving has been practiced as early as 27,000 years ago in the Upper Paleolithic period.
- There are many different types of weave but the most common are plain weaving (common in shirting, canvas etc), satin weaving (common in silk, polyester etc.) and twill weaving (common in denim etc.).
- The Salish people of the Pacific Northwest are known for their twill blankets which would be used to distinguish people who were wealthy or had a civic or religious position. In these communities, women were in charge of weaving and would begin learning the art at a very young age.
- The indigenous people of North and South America are credited with the independent creation of most of the non-mechanized weaving technique.
- The oldest evidence of woven cloth in North America was found in Florida and dates to 4900 to 6500 BCE.
- After the industrial revolution, most weaving became mechanized.