DAYTON ART INSTITUTE

Playful Paper Weaving

Best for: grades 1-3

Description: use construction paper to explore color and pattern by weaving various compositions inspired by warm, cool, primary or secondary color palettes.
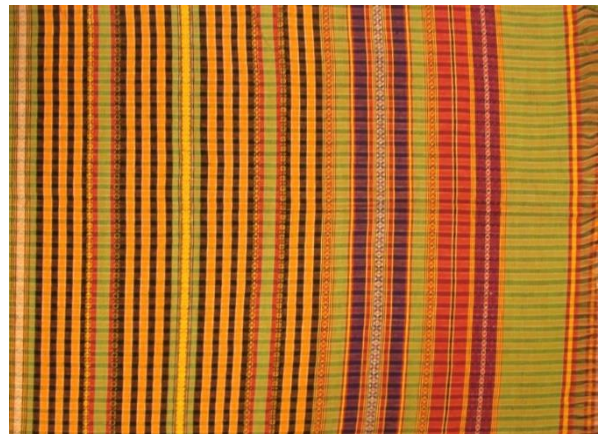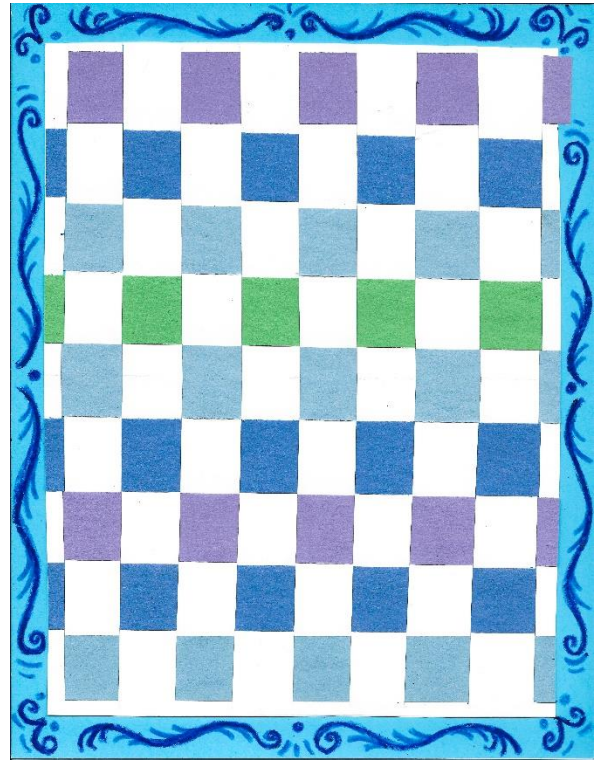
Vocabulary: pattern, color family, weaving, warm colors, cool colors, primary colors, secondary colors, hamburger fold, loom, opposite

Required materials
- one: 9x12" white or black paper
- 9x12" construction paper in various colors (or magazine pages)
- safety scissors/scissors
- pencil
- ruler
- glue stick

Optional materials
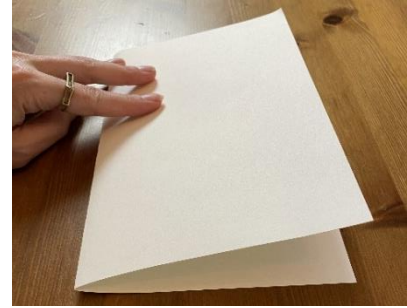- crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Images:
Beatrice Riese (American, Ukrainian, 1917—2004), *Truganini of Tasmani,* 1990, oil on canvas. Gift of the artist. 2001.27
Thai, *Head Cloth* (detail), 1940-1950, cotton. Gift of the Estate of Helen Wells Seymour through Mrs. Laura Seymour Doolittle. 1951.32.7
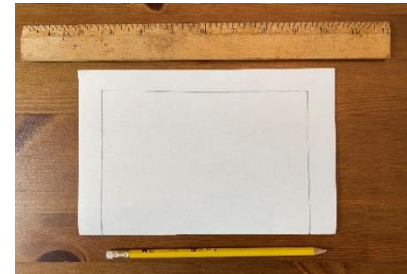
Instructions

1. Fold white paper in half **hamburger-style,** (top to bottom short sides). Smooth down the fold and hold it flat with the folded side closest to you.

2. Draw a light border in pencil along the left, right and top sides. Do not draw a line on the bottom, folded edge. You'll use this as a guideline of where not to cut past later.
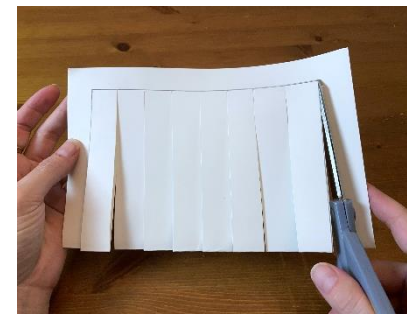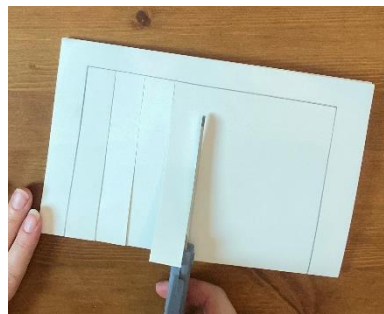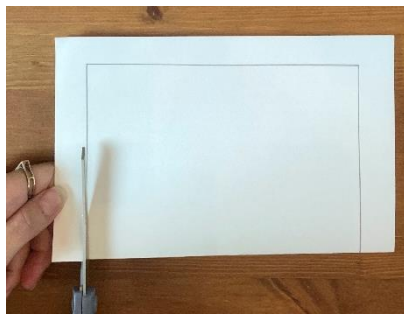
   Helpful hint: Use a ruler to draw out straight lines.

3. With the paper still folded, use scissors to slowly cut straight lines. Starting at the left border, cut from the fold up to the top border—stop cutting before you reach the top!
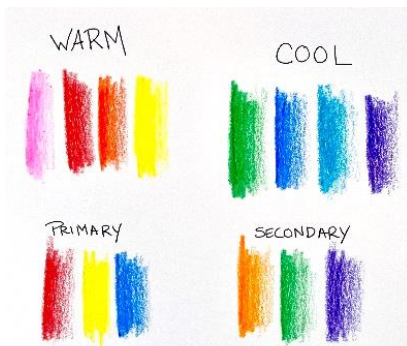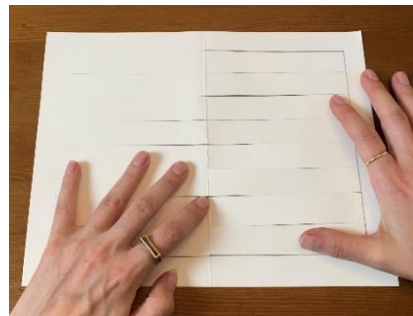
   Helpful hint: the closer together the lines are cut, the tighter the weave will be.

4. Unfold the paper you just cut. This is your **loom.** Press firmly into where the fold was to flatten fully. Set aside.

5. Prepare your weaving strips and choose a **color family.** Will your artwork be in **warm** colors? **Cool** colors? **Primary** or **secondary** colors? Once decided, cut thin strips of colors you want—cut along the short side.
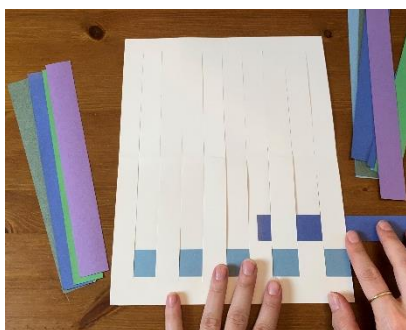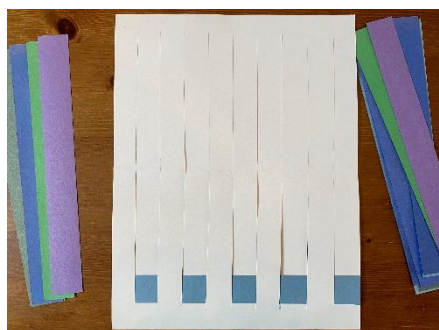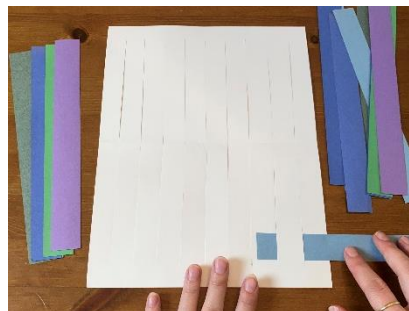
   Optional: don't like the colors you have? Color a piece of white paper with crayons or markers first.

6. Weave strips into your white paper loom.

Thread the first strip **under** the first white line, then **over** the next, and repeat until the strips aligns to loom's edge.

Do the **opposite** with the next strip: thread it **over** the first white line, then **under** the next, and repeat until done.

7. Weave as many strips as you can fit into your **loom.**

8. Fasten your strips in place by gluing the ends to the border of the loom, or cutting them off entirely.

9. To finish your weaving, glue the entire composition onto a frame of a larger, different colored paper and decorate that frame to complete.
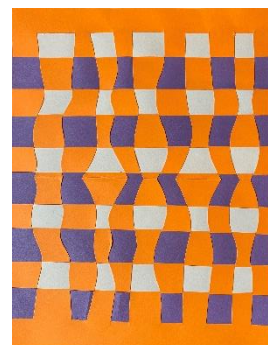

10. Your project is so nice, we recommend you do it twice! Repeat steps #1-9 but with a different color choices.
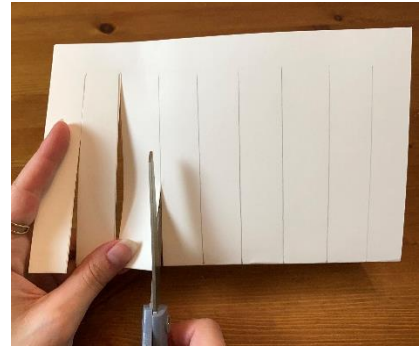

Extensions

For extra challenge:
1. Create a unique loom by cutting curved instead of straight lines.
2. Select and apply colors for your strips that will **gradate,** or fade from one to the other. Staring with many strips of one color, gradually add more of a second or third color and end with the final color.
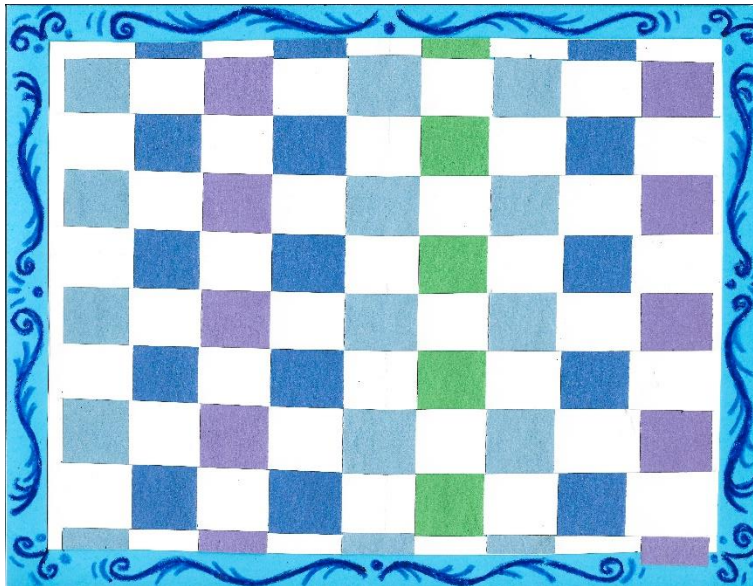
For younger learners:

1. Pre-cut paper strips and prepare paper loom in advance. Place young learners' hands on adults' for the first few weaves. Then, allow them to weave solo.
2. Prepare in advance a loose cardboard loom for a young learner to practice weaving paper or yarn. Watch the #MetKids video found in the resource below together!

For a creative spin:

1. Try a uniquely shaped loom. Before cutting, change the shape of the loom to something other than a rectangle, such as a diamond or a circle.
2. Use strips from cut magazines pages for added texture or pattern.
3. Create a 3-dimensional shape from your loom by taping or gluing ends of your final artwork together.

Web Resources

How weaving benefits children

"Weaving Wall" at Port Discovery Children's Museum

At-home weaving activity from the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Video: #MetKids weaving video

Interactive color wheel

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Questions about or ideas for our programs? Email edu@daytonart.org