

Home Project #5



Eiteljorg
Museum

Make a cardboard loom and weave at home!

A willow basket, a Navajo rug, a cotton t-shirt—What do they have in common? They were all woven! Use a magnifier to look at your shirt. What do you see?

Looms are used to help connect pieces of fiber together to make something. What you choose may depend on where you live and what's available in your area—flax, silk or cotton for fabrics; wool from sheep, llamas or goats; willow, cedar or ash for baskets.

Do any of these grow or live in Indiana?

Follow the directions to make a loom and then weave a coaster for yourself. What other materials could you use to weave a coaster? What else can you weave?

Materials

- 4" x 5" piece of heavy cardboard
- 3 craft sticks
- Glue
- 3 ½ yards of cotton string
- Yarn to weave with
- Tape
- Scissors

Instructions for making your loom

Glue a craft stick on each 4" end of your cardboard and let the glue dry.

Step 2

Warp your loom using the cotton string. Hold the end of the string against the back of your loom. Then bring the string up and around the front of the loom.

Continue this pattern until you have 12 warp strings on the front of your loom.

Step 2

Tie the two ends of string together on the back of your loom.



Weave a coaster on your cardboard loom!

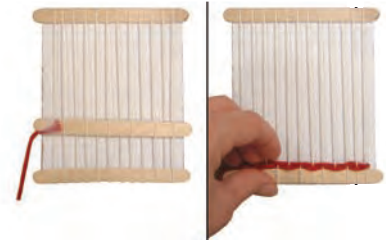
Step 1

Tape a piece of yarn to the third craft stick. This stick will act as your needle as you weave.



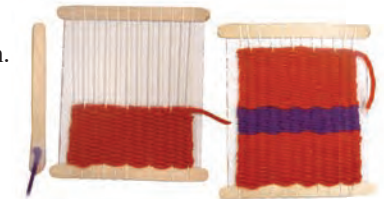
Step 2

Insert the weaving stick over the first and under the second warp string. Continue this pattern across the loom. At the end of each row, push the woven thread down firmly using your fingers.



Step 3

Continue weaving back and forth until you need more yarn. Attach another piece of yarn to the craft stick with tape. Do not pull the yarn too tight—this will cause the edges to pull toward the center.



Step 4

After you have finished weaving, cut the warp threads in the center back of your loom. Separate the strings into groups of three. Wrap each group around your finger and tie a knot. Trim these strings slightly to make fringe.

