

WEAVING EXPLOSION WORKSHOP

LESSON 4: Weaving on a Frame Loom

LEARNING OBJECTIVE: Students will learn how to achieve a more precise form of weaving by working with a frame. Students will learn about the tools and techniques used in tapestry weaving and practice using these to make a piece of woven fabric.

VOCABULARY: beater, canvas stretcher, shuttle, shed, tabby weave, taut, weaving sticks,

MATERIALS AND TOOLS: Tapestry loom made from artist stretched canvas, cotton yarn or string for warp threads, yarn, string or other fiber stuff for weft, tapestry needle, wide craft sticks 8 inch long, mat board to make shuttles, knitting needle at least 10 inches long, scissors, plastic fork.

PROCEDURE

Teacher provides an overview of working on a frame loom, explaining the tools, materials and techniques. She then demonstrates the following while students watch: preparing shuttles, using the weaving sticks, opening the shed, weaving in tabby stitch, changing colors, hiding ends.

Warping the loom: Using a cotton or other very sturdy thread, tie one end to the upper right-most nail. Begin wrapping at the bottom right nail, go back to the top and continue wrapping, alternating top and bottom, moving one nail at a time to the left. Be sure to keep the yarn/thread moderately taut. Tie end of yarn to the final nail, which will be the bottom left most nail. Test the tautness of the warp by bouncing palm lightly on the warp threads. They should have some spring.

Winding shuttles: Cut weft yarns no longer than three feet in length. Slip yarn end into one slit of the shuttle. Wind around the shuttle, spreading the yarn across its width evenly. Leave about ten inches of yarn unwound. You will begin weaving with this end.

Begin Weaving: Open the shed, run shuttle through, use beater to tamp level. Unwind another 8 inches of yarn. Use the second weaving stick to raise opposite warp threads. Turn stick to open shed, run shuttle through. Continue in the manner until weft yarn is about a foot long. Run through warp threads, tamp down. Leave the yarn end to be woven through later.

Weaving with a tapestry needle: Cut yarn no longer than the length of your arm. Thread need, leaving a 4 inch tail. You can use the needle to go over and under warp threads. Pull through, leaving a 3 inch tail. Tails will be woven through after weaving is finished, or they can be worked into piece as you weave.

To travel 2nd yarn up the side, bring working yarn under yarn to be moved every time you come to it. This will move it up the side to a new position invisibly.

If there is time: Demonstrate other weaves, larks head knots, clefting warp, and splitting warp to make openings in the piece.