

Paper Weaving

Cultures around the world have used weaving as a way to make things that are useful to them—like clothes, baskets, hats, mats, and much more!

Weaving is when you pass strips of material over and under each other to make something.

Following directions is a great way to improve your literacy skills. Try the paper weaving activity below for some creative fun and to make your very own paper fabric!

What will you need?

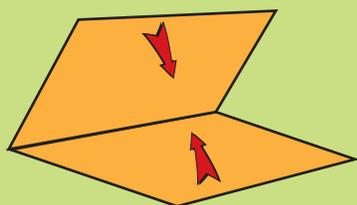
- at least 2 pieces of coloured paper (construction paper works well)
- scissors
- glue (if you want to do step 5)

What do you do?

Follow these easy steps:

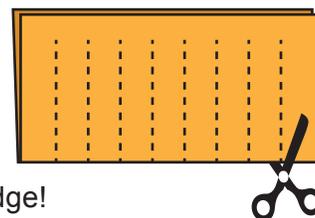
Step 1

- Choose 1 coloured piece of paper.
- Fold it in 2.



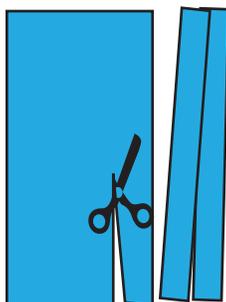
Step 2

- Cut the paper from the folded side towards the open side.
- Stop before you get to edge!
- Make your cuts equally spaced or not, straight or not—get creative to see what design you end up with!



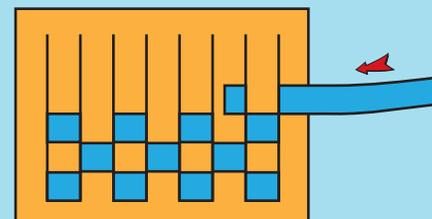
Step 3

- Cut long strips out of a second piece of paper.
- Choose 1 colour or many—just have fun!



Step 4

- Open the first piece of paper (the one you just cut slits in).
- Weave the strips—one at a time—over and under the slits you created in the first piece of paper.



Step 5

- Cut the ends of any strips that are too long.
- Glue the ends of the strips to the first piece of paper so they stay in place (if you want).

Enjoy your new woven paper!

You can use your woven paper as a mat, to build other things...or anything else you can think of.

Taking it Further

Looking for more advanced paper weaving activities?

Go to <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/settlement/kids/021013-1816-e.html> to learn how to make a woven paper basket. You can also read stories about basket weaving like *The Village Basket Weaver* by Jonathan London.