

Third Thursday

Make a Paper Weaving

Weaving has a long tradition in New Mexico. The Diné and the Puebloan peoples wove plant fibers to make shoes, robes, mats, and other things that they needed. When the Spanish came to New Mexico, they brought sheep with them so that they could use the sheep's wool to weave blankets for sleeping and wearing and to use as floor mats. They also all used natural dyes from plants to create different colors to use in their weavings.

Supplies Needed

- weaving template (located on pages 2-3 of this document)
- colored pencils
- scissors
- glue stick (optional)

How to Do It!

1. Look at the weaving template located on the pages 2 and 3 of this document. Page 2 is the body of your weaving and page 3 will be cut into strips that you will weave through the slits you will cut into page 2. Use the colored pencils to color in the body and strips you will use to make your weaving.
2. Fold the body of your weaving in half along the dotted line. Use scissors to cut along the solid lines, making sure to not cut all the way to the edge of the paper.
3. Use scissors to cut along the solid lines to cut apart the strips on page 3.
4. You will now weave paper strips through the slits you have cut in the body of your weaving. Take the first strip and weave it through all of the slits, first going under and then going over until you have woven all the way through the body of your weaving.
5. Take the second strip and weave it through all of the slits, first going over and then going under, so that you are weaving in the opposite way from the first strip.
6. Keep weaving until you have woven all ten paper strips through the body of your weaving. Make sure to keep alternating whether you start over or under with each new strip.
7. OPTIONAL: You can use the glue stick to glue the end of each strip to the body of your weaving so that they cannot come out.



Detail from a *jerga*/utility cloth,
1850-1890, churro wool, cotton
Museum purchase, 1995 G.O. Bonds



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