

"Creativity is contagious, pass it on!" (Albert Einstein)

Frieth Year 6 Art homelearning.

LO: "Children will be able to experiment with a range of materials and processes in response to Amazonian imagery."

Activity 1.

Watch a short video, Discovery Education - 'The Maya - Culture,' about their culture, particularly focussing on the weaving element. (<https://www.discoveryeducation.co.uk>)



Activity 2.

Print and try the worksheet, 'Mayan Textile Designs,' from Discovery Education.



According to the Maya, Our Grandmother the Moon, the goddess Ixchel, taught the first woman to weave at the beginning of time. Mayan mothers have continued to teach their daughters how to weave to produce exquisite cloth ever since. It remains an extremely important part of Mayan life, not only for religious and social reasons but because it is a way of bringing money into the household.



It is said that when a girl is born, the midwife presents her with the different instruments of weaving one by one and she says the following:

"Well then, little girl,
This will be your hand
This will be your foot
Here is your work
With this, you'll look for your food
Don't take the evil path
Don't steal
When you grow up
Only with these will you work
With your hand
With your foot."



Activity 3.

Maybe you could write out this 'poem,' in your neatest handwriting and decorate the border with your Mayan textile designs from Activity 2?



Activity 4.

You might like to research the work of Mayan-Guatemalan artist Paula Nicho Comez (b.1955). She was a weaver before she became an artist. See if you can find some of her work showing Mayan women with their 'huipil.' (See images below) This is a blouse worn by Mayan women, often described as a 'second skin.' Each design is specific to where the women come from, rather like a badge on a blazer which tells you the school a child attends.





So let's weave!

Activity 4.

<https://www.instructables.com>

The website above demonstrates (in 9 steps with pictures) how to weave on a cardboard loom (You don't have to use this site if you find another that you prefer!) Don't feel that you have to complete the task in one sitting, it is definitely something you can put down and pick up again as and when you feel like it.



You don't have to weave with wool or cotton thread. Can you find other materials to use? What about upcycling your old plastic carrier bags for example? You can twist each bag, some tightly, some more loosely. What about ribbon? What about materials from your garden? What about lots of different materials? Your piece of card doesn't necessarily have to be a regular shape either. Be adventurous! You don't actually have to use a cardboard loom. What about using sticks?





Activity 5.

"God's Eyes."

"God's Eyes" were originally made to be placed on an altar so that the gods could watch over the people as they prayed and protect them. They are now more often sold in markets, reminding us that God looks with love on people everywhere.

A simple frame of crossed sticks is used to weave brightly coloured wool to make a design called "Ojo de Dios" or "Eye of God".

Materials you will need:

2 small sticks, fairly straight and approximately 15cm long or 2 lollipop sticks (the sticks can be fairly smooth tree branches or dowels)

Scissors and pencil

4 balls of wool - any colours

small bells for decoration (optional)

Step 1: Cross the sticks at the centre. Tie them together with the end of a piece of wool, making an X, but don't cut the wool off (Figure 2). Tie the wool IN BACK of the 2 crossed sticks (Figure 1).



FIGURE 1

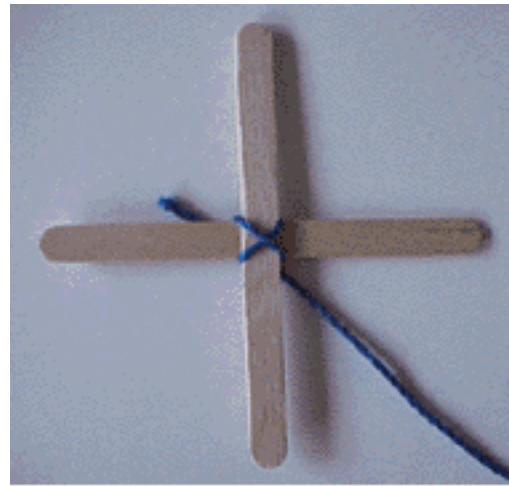


FIGURE 2

Step 2: With the pencil, number the sticks at the ends, in the centre (Figure 3)



FIGURE 3

Step 3 : Bring the wool to the front between sticks 3 and 4. Pull the wool over stick 3 and the next one too (stick 2), and bring it to the back between sticks 2 and 1. Wrap it behind stick 2 and bring it to the front again between sticks 2 and 3. Pull it over stick 2 and the next one too (stick 1), and wrap it behind stick 1 (Figure 3).

Step 4: Pull the wool over stick 1 and the next one too (stick 4) and wrap it behind stick 4. Pull it over stick 4 and the next one too (stick 3) and wrap it behind stick 3. This is one complete round. Always lay the wool next to, NOT on top of the wool already in place.

Step 5: Keep on wrapping the wool behind each stick, over that stick and the next, and around behind that one, then over that stick and the next and behind that one. (Figure 4) As you continue making the rounds, always be sure that the wool lies next to, but never on top of the yarn in the previous round. After the first few rounds, you will see the woven pattern of the "eye" beginning to form.



FIGURE 4

Step 6 : When you have an "eye" in one colour of wool, you can cut the wool and tie on another colour, and continue weaving. Make sure that the knot that you joined the 2 colours with, stays in the back (Figure 5).



FIGURE 5

Step 7: Keep weaving the "God's Eye" until you are about 3cm from the ends of the sticks. Cut the wool, leaving approximately a 18cm tail. Tie the tail in a knot in back. If you have bells for decoration, attach one to each of the 4 ends.



FIGURE 6



FIGURE 7

A "God's Eye" this size can be used as a decoration, hung almost anywhere. At Christmas you can even hang them on your tree. They can also be made in miniature with the thread wound on toothpicks, but these are delicate and much harder to handle.



Step 8: You can make a larger, more complicated project with multiple "God's Eyes" by crossing 2 larger sticks ,30cm or longer, and then crossing a short stick at the end of each long one. (See the picture of the finished "God's Eye".) Weave out only about 4-6cm from the centre of the shorter sticks, farther on the longer ones. To make this larger one, you are really just making 5 single "God's Eyes" the way you did in steps 1 to 7 above. Weave the centre "God's Eye" first. Then weave each of the 4 smaller "Eyes", projecting out from the centre, using the same method. Tie bells on the ends and where the individual "God's Eyes" meet, just for fun. You can also make individual "God's Eyes" in different sizes to make up a really neat mobile.

Step 9: Make a twisted cord to loop over the topmost "God's Eye" sticks that project from side to side.(See completed multiple "God's Eye".)



Activity 6.

Visit <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach> and find Primary Resources.

Click 'KS2 History'

Select 'History of Early Civilisations' and find some time to watch, "Fashion in Mayan Civilisation."

This entertaining reality TV parody (a humorous/funny imitation) shows traditional male and female Maya clothing, as well as fashion accessories and body decoration in different social groups.

Enjoy!

