

Warp: DIY Loom

Warp and Weft are the two basic components used in weaving to turn yarn into fabric. The warp is the vertical lines of yarn on the loom. The weft is the yarn that is threaded over-and-under the warp to build up the fabric. The following instructions show you how to make your own cardboard loom to explore the principles of weaving.



Enrico Paulucci delle Roncole, Boats Tapestry, 1953



MITA, Rug, 1927

You will need

- Recycled cardboard
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Tape- masking tape is best
- Yarn for warp (1m)



- 1) Cut the cardboard into a rectangle at your desired size.
- 2) Measure and mark 1 inch along the top and bottom of the cardboard.
- 3) Mark every 1-2cm along the line or wider if you want your warp more spaced out (a wider warp makes weaving easier for small children)
- 4) Cut each line to the 1 inch line to make 'teeth'



- 5) Stick one end of your yarn to the back of your loom with tape.
- 6) Thread the wool around each cardboard 'tooth' and down ONE side of your loom.
- 7) Tape the remaining yarn at the back to secure it.



8) You have your loom! You can weave yarn or different strips of material over and under the warp yarn to start weaving. See our follow up activity 'Weft: Weaving' for more information on how to weave.



9) Measure out a strip of cardboard (about 3cm) the same width as your loom. Slide it under your warp and tilt it upright to lift the strings making it easier to weave.



Top Tip: Use a thin and string yarn for the warp so it doesn't show through your weave.. unless you want it to!