

Fabric and Fibre Lesson with 3rd to 4th Classes

'Wonderful Weaving'

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Curriculum Strand: Fabric and Fibre (Visual Arts Curriculum p.58)

Objective: *Explore the possibilities of fabric and fibre as media for imaginative expression (p.58)*
Make small inventive pieces in fabric and fibre (p.58)

Linkage: **Paint and Colour** > *Discover colour in the visual environment and become sensitive to colour differences and tonal variations through colour mixing (p.50)*
Print> *Use a widening range of print-making techniques to make theme-based or non-representational prints (p.52)*

Integration Possibilities:

Oral Language: Initiate conversations and respond to the initiatives of others in talking about experiences and activities (p.38)

Science: Observe and explore some ways in which plant and animal behaviour is influenced by, or adapted to, environmental conditions (p.62)

Geography: Study weather variations during the year and their influence on plants, animals and humans (p.58)

Developing this Activity in Class:

Getting Started: Look at the 'Weaving with Fibres' programme on the DVD and see how the children weave simple, colourful wall hangings using a simple card loom. Look at 'Make a Loom' in the 'Can You?' section of the *I Am An Artist* website with the class and help them to construct individual looms with card and string.

Materials Needed: A4 sheets of strong card
 String
 A variety of wools
 A variety of fabrics cut into narrow strips
 Ribbons, laces, threads

Stimulus: Seasonal Colours – "What colours can we see to let us know that Spring/Summer/Autumn/Winter has arrived? What Festival is celebrated during Spring/Summer/Autumn/Winter? What flowers/fruits do we associate with this season? What weather do we associate with it? Think about all these things and see if you could put them together to weave a wall hanging about aspects of this season."

Activity: The children decide on the fabric strips, wools, ribbons and any other fibres they are going to use for their weaving. Encourage them to be adventurous with their choice of textures and colours, keeping aspects of the particular season in mind. They might like to weave dried grasses or flowers into the piece too. When they have finished, remove the piece from the loom and display in the classroom or other suitable place in the school.

Evaluation/Looking and Responding:

This will be happening as the children work. Encourage them to talk about what they are doing, about the yarns chosen and what they think about the textures and colour scheme they have created. If possible show them samples of woven fabric, e.g., woollen rugs/blankets, chunky scarves, tweeds. Ask them to respond to the tapestries by Le Brocquy and Miro.

Extension Activities: The children could make weavings following patterns of their own design to make belts, headbands depicting local team colours or other items.

ICT Possibilities: The Victoria and Albert Museum gives children the opportunity to design a textile!
http://www.vam.ac.uk/vastatic/microsites/british_galleries/designa/textile/textile.html

Using the I Am An Artist DVD: The *Fabric and Fibre* programmes on the DVD offer opportunities to see children using fabrics and fibres to make pictures, weavings, puppets and costumes.

Note: When the children start to weave it is a good idea to use strips of fabric as it will not seem like a life time for them to finish it. Fine wools take a long time to weave and it can get tedious for the children.

Relevant Artists: Louis le Brocquy
Joan Miro
Christo and Jean-Claude

Relevant Websites: Visit Louis le Brocquy's website and see his wonderful tapestries
<http://www.anne-madden.com/LeBPages/Tapestry90thcelebration.html>

The official site of Christo and Jeanne- Claude, famous for the art of wrapping major buildings and landmarks with fabrics
<http://www.christojeanneclaude.net>

Visit this weaving and lace gallery to see lots of sample of hand weaving from around the world.
<http://www.handweaving.net/GalleryList.aspx>

This links page in the Victoria and Albert Museum offers lots of opportunities to learn about textiles.
http://www.vam.ac.uk/collections/furniture/textiles_links/index.html

Scoilnet, which is a portal to lots of sites useful in the classroom
<http://www.scoilnet.ie>