



FRANK
LLOYD
WRIGHT
TRUST

WEAVING AND WRIGHT

GRADE: 6-12

TIME: Two 60-minute sessions

Find inspiration in Frank Lloyd Wright interiors through weaving! In this lesson, students will explore the concept of organic design as they discover how colors and patterns are repeated throughout Wright's interior spaces and applied to furnishings, windows, and architectural details. After students find inspiring colors and patterns in a specific Wright-designed interior, they will then apply those colors and patterns to an original weaving. Then, they will envision how the weaving might be incorporated into their chosen Wright-designed interior.

INTEGRATED SUBJECTS: Visual Arts, Social Studies

OBJECTIVES

MATERIALS | RESOURCES

Cardboard looms
Yarn (various textures and colors)
Tapestry needles
Scissors
Masking tape
Grid paper
Colored pencils
Found materials for weaving
Images of Frank Lloyd Wright interiors

1. Understand the concept of organic design and how it applies to decorative elements.
2. Create weavings that contain colors and patterns inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's interior spaces.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. How did Frank Lloyd Wright use color to design organically?
2. How can I creatively interpret Wright's interior spaces through weaving?
3. What is the relationship between art, craft, and architecture?

LESSON PROCEDURE

EXPLORE

Session One

- Introduce Frank Lloyd Wright and the concept of organic design. Information can be found at <https://www.teachingbydesign.org/about/organic-design/> and <https://flwright.org/researchandexplore/furnitureand-decorativearts>. Emphasize Wright's furniture designs as an important component of an organic space.
- With students, explore a variety of Frank Lloyd Wright interiors. When observing each interior space, highlight Wright-designed details such as window designs, rugs, furniture, or light fixtures. Challenge students to identify colors and patterns that are repeated throughout the design of a room.
- Introduce the art of weaving and have students consider: What role does weaving play in art and design?
 - Optional: Highlight designed objects that are woven, such as tea towels and articles of clothing. Introduce artists who use weaving in their artwork, such as Sheila Hicks, Anni Albers, and Lenore Tawney. Compare and contrast examples.

ENGAGE

Session One

- Guide students as they prepare a cardboard loom for weaving. Directions can be found in the appendix below.
 - Differentiation: Prepare all looms for students in advance.
- Ask students to select one Frank Lloyd Wright interior to use as inspiration for a new weaving. Encourage students to sketch any colors, shapes, and patterns they see being repeated throughout the room.
- Instruct students to use sketches to select a few colors of yarn that will complement the space.
- Demonstrate the process of weaving. Directions can be found in the appendix below.

DESIGN

Session One

- Instruct students to sketch a few ideas for a weaving that would complement the chosen interior space designed by Wright. (Tip: Use grid paper so that each vertical line can represent a notch in the loom!) Encourage students to utilize multiple colors. Have students consider: Should one color be emphasized in my design? If so, how?
- Guide students through the weaving process as students transfer their designs to the loom.

ENGAGE

Session Two

- Review the concept of organic design and how it is expressed in Frank Lloyd Wright's designs.
- Review the fundamental techniques of weaving.

ENGAGE

Session Two

- Discuss student progress. Ask: What is working well? How is your design related to Frank Lloyd Wright's designs?

LESSON PROCEDURE (continued)

DESIGN

Session Two

- **Ask students to complete their weaving projects.** Encourage students to experiment with a variety of yarn weights and textures.
- **Guide students through the process of finishing their weaving and taking it off the loom.** Directions can be found in the appendix below.

CRITIQUE & INTERPRET

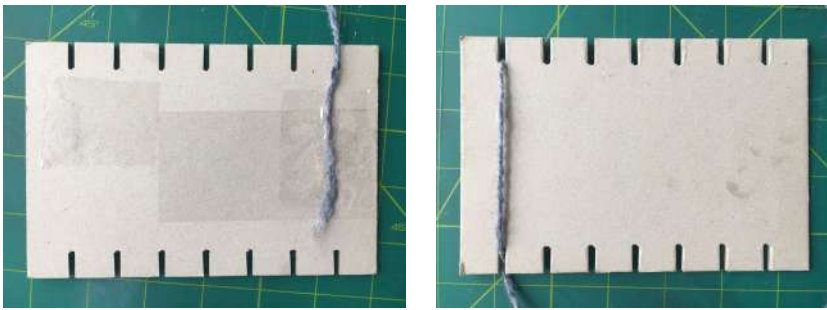
Session Two

- **Have each student envision their weaving within the Frank Lloyd Wright room that inspired their design.** Ask **students to consider:** How will my weaving be used? Will it hang on the wall as a work of art or serve a functional purpose, such as a rug, tablecloth or furniture upholstery?
- **Encourage students to share their designs, noting how the design was inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's use of color and pattern.** Ask students to share how they believe their design should be used in their chosen Wright interior.

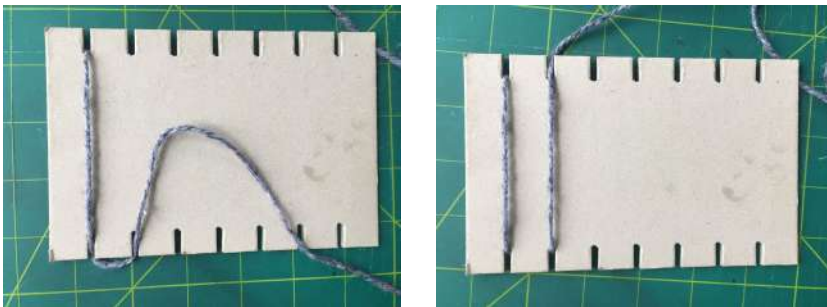
APPENDIX: HOW TO WEAVE

PREPARING THE LOOM

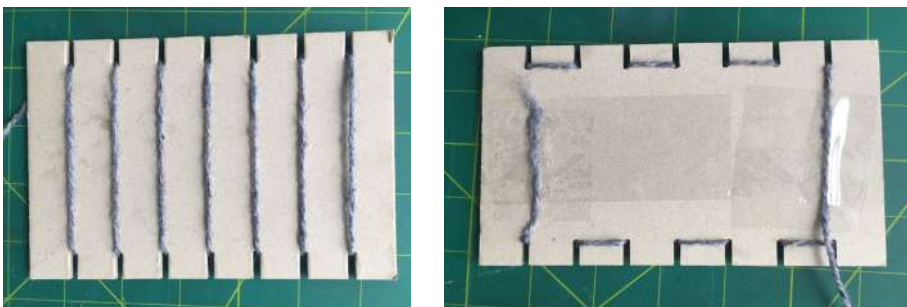
- Position the loom so that the notches are along the top and bottom edges of the loom.
- Tape one end of the yarn to the right edge of the loom and turn the loom over.



- Thread the yarn into the notch in the top left corner and carry the yarn down into the bottom left notch.
- Bring the yarn back to the front of the loom by threading it behind and up through the notch directly to the right of the leftmost bottom notch.



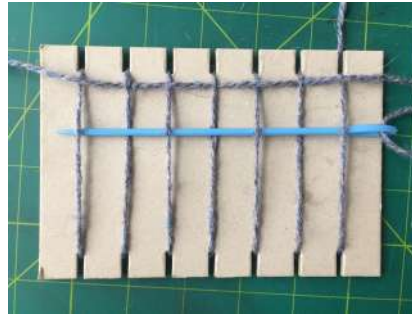
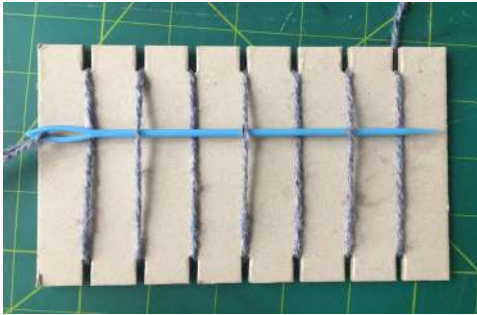
- Continue the threading motion until all notches are threaded and there are parallel lines of yarn along the entirety of the loom.
- Leave a tail of yarn and tape to the back of the loom.



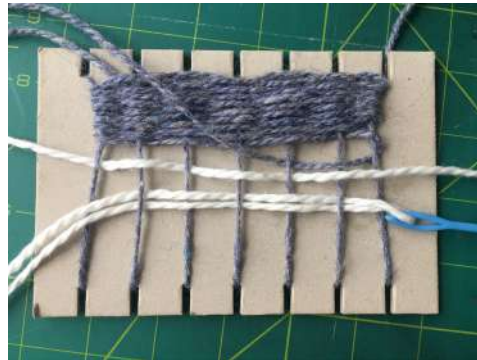
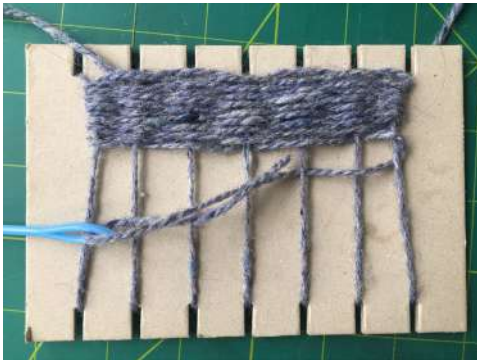
APPENDIX: HOW TO WEAVE

WEAVING

- Thread a length of yarn through the tapestry needle.
- Guide the needle and yarn left to right through the loom in an over-under pattern.



- Once you have worked your way across the loom, wrap the needle around the last thread and repeat the weaving process, using an under-over pattern and weaving in the opposite direction.
- After each row is completed, push the woven yarn to the top of your loom.



- When you are ready to incorporate a new color or when you run out of yarn, cut the yarn and leave a tail of a few inches. This will be tucked into the weaving later. With a new piece of yarn, tuck a tail of yarn into the same spot as your previous yarn's tail. Continue weaving where you left off.

APPENDIX: HOW TO WEAVE

TAKING A WEAVING OFF THE LOOM

- Tuck any loose ends of yarn into the weaving by threading the loose end through a needle, guiding the needle through the edge of the weaving, and pulling tightly.



- Remove the tape from your loom and remove the weaving from the loom by pulling each loop off of the loom's notches.



- Pull all of the top loops up so that the bottom loops are flush with your weaving. Then, cut the center of each top loop and tie knots to secure.

