

African art project – Weaving

We are going to do some paper weaving, taking our inspiration from the kente cloth of West Africa.

Kente cloth is a beautiful, colourful cloth which was first woven in Ghana, West Africa.

Watch this story on YouTube to hear a legend about kente cloth. (A legend is an old story, it is not necessarily true, but people enjoy the story like to think there may be least some truth in it.)

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=kente+cloth+history+for+kids&docid=608039610742212603&mid=68C3867157F542099B4E68C3867157F542099B4E&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>

Now look at these pictures of some woven kente cloth

What colours stand out for you?



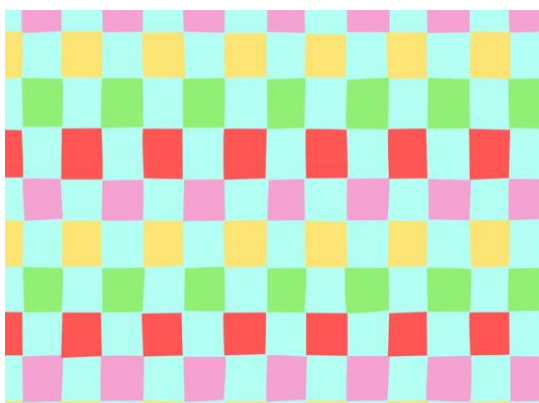
I can see a lot of orange red, lots of yellow or gold, lots of green and a little black and a little blue.

If you have some paper of these colours you could use it to do your paper weaving.

Don't worry if you don't have these colours, you can still do weaving using any paper and then colour some patterns onto the paper with colouring pencils or pens.

You could even use paper that is ready for recycling and see what interesting effects you can get from the print that is on it.

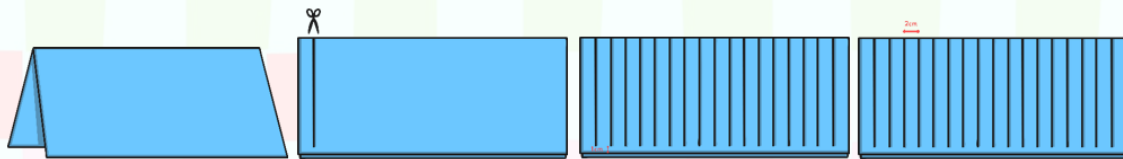
Follow these instructions to do your weaving.



Making a Paper Loom



1. First, fold your A4 sheet in half, lengthways.
2. Cut straight slits into the folded edge from the top of your sheet to the bottom.
3. Leave a gap about 2 cm wide between each slit that you cut.
4. Do not cut all the way to the ends! Stop about 1cm away from each edge.
5. Fold your paper out and you have a paper loom to weave into.
6. This will be our '**warp**'.

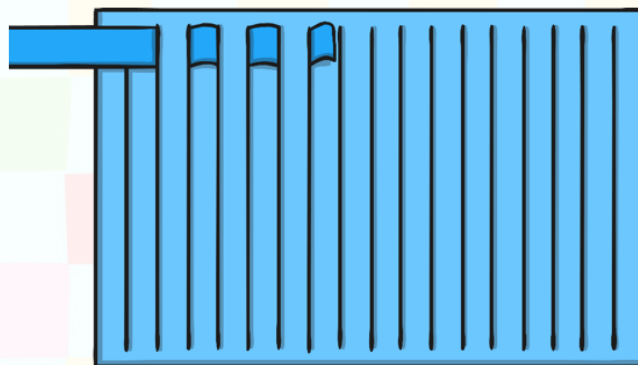


For extra challenge: try leaving a smaller gap between your slits.

Weaving Under and Over



1. Place your loom in front of you so that it is landscape.
2. Choose a strip of material to weave with.
3. The strips of material will be our '**weft**'.
4. Place your strip at the top of your page on the left, **over** the loom.

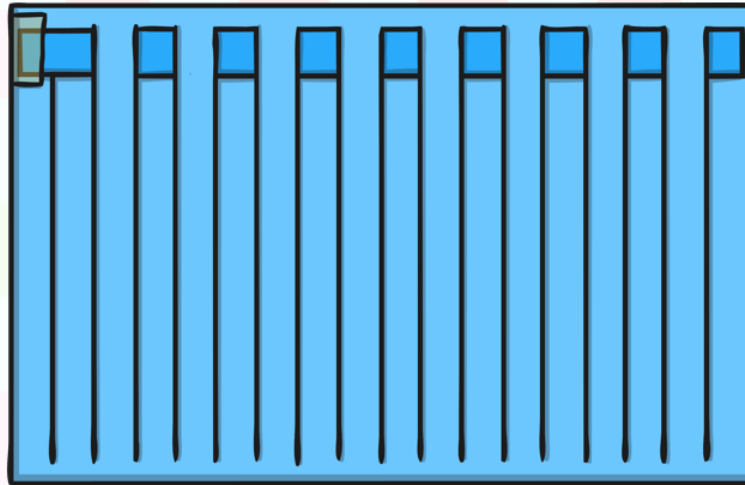


Weaving Under and Over



Weave your strip over, under, over, under etc. until it reaches the other side of the loom.

You may find it helpful to use a little glue or tape to secure the ends.

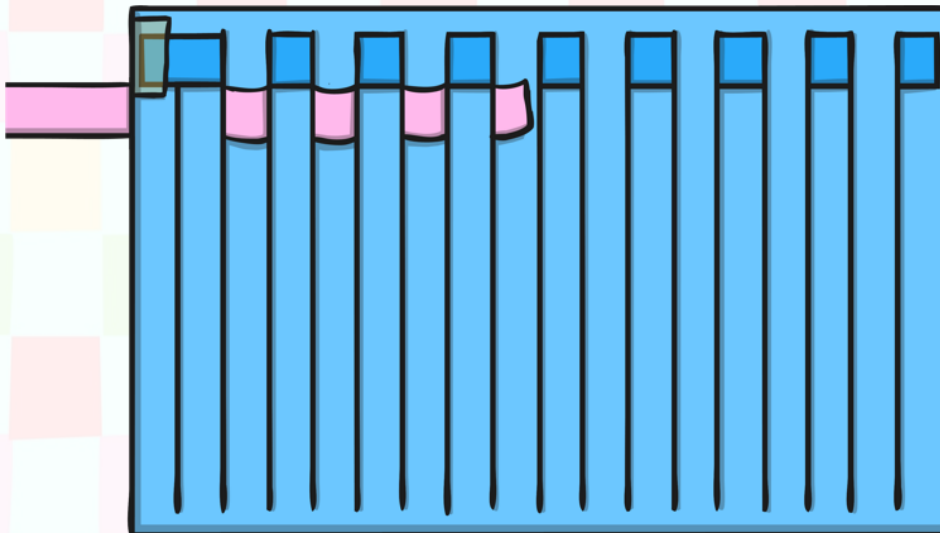


Weaving Under and Over



Take your next strip and this time start by placing your strip **under** the loom.

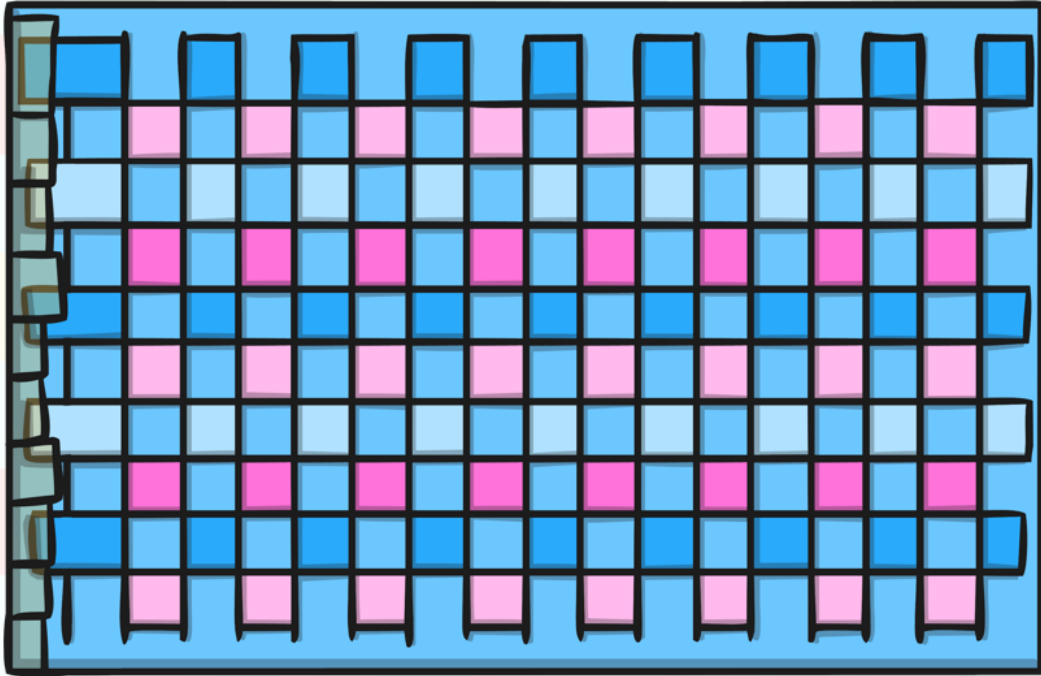
Weave the strip under, over, under, over etc. until it reaches the end of the loom.



Weaving Under and Over



Repeat, changing your starting point from either **over** or **under** the edge of the loom.



Adding Decoration

So far we have just used paper to create our art.

What could we add to make it more interesting or beautiful?

