

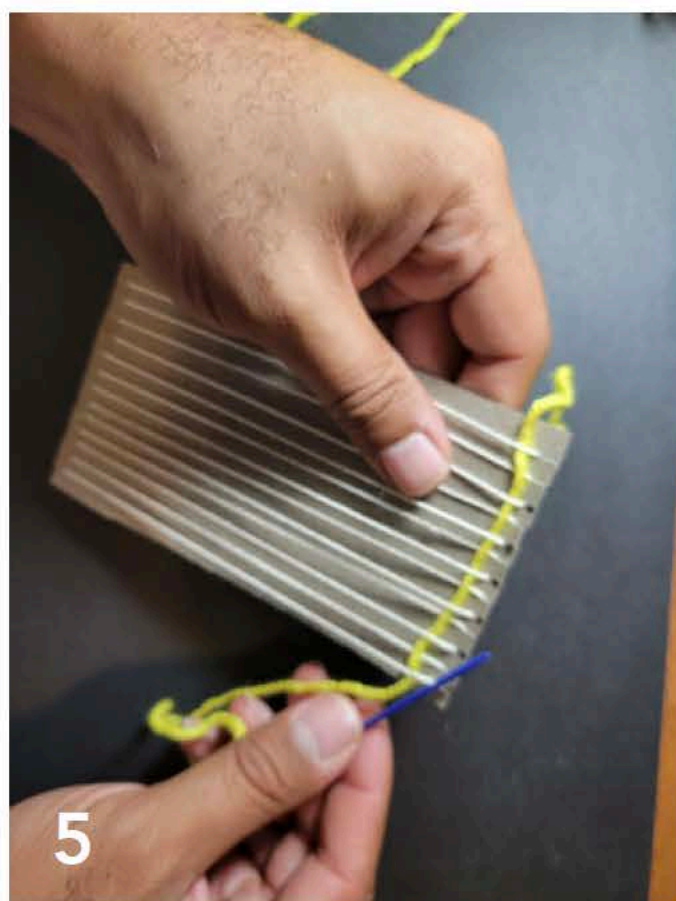
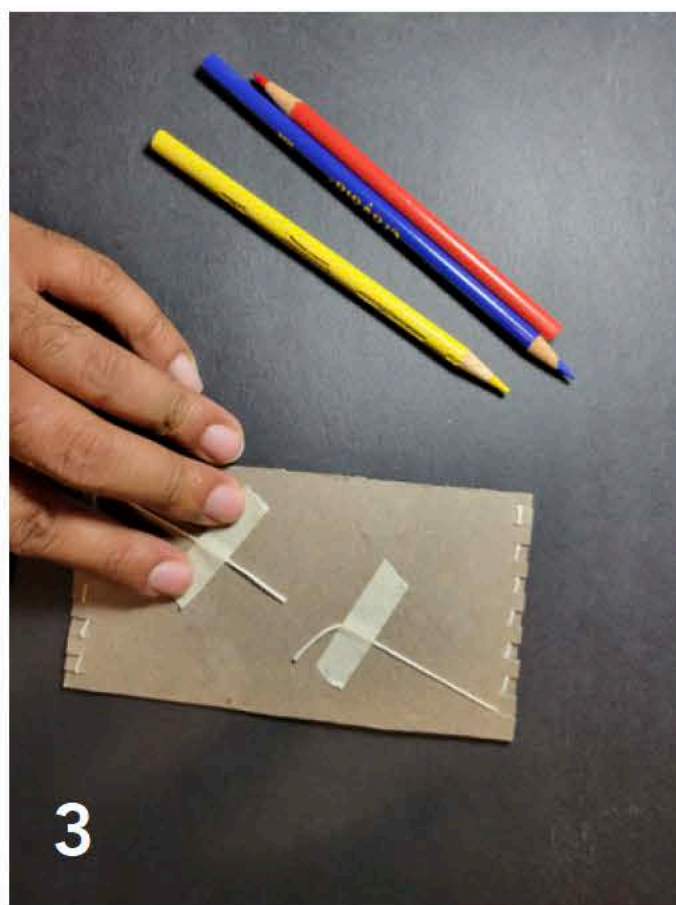
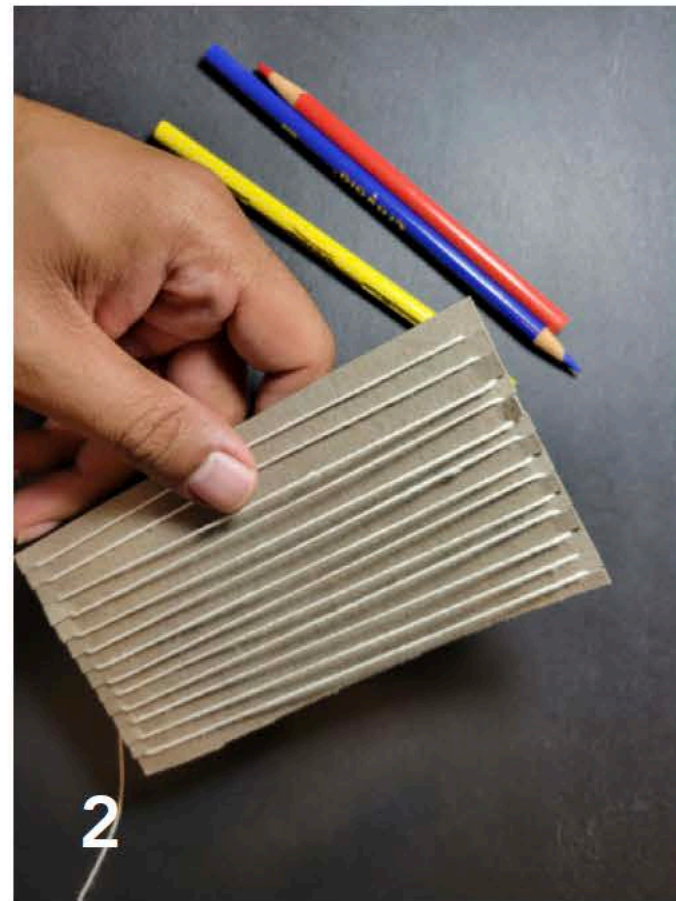
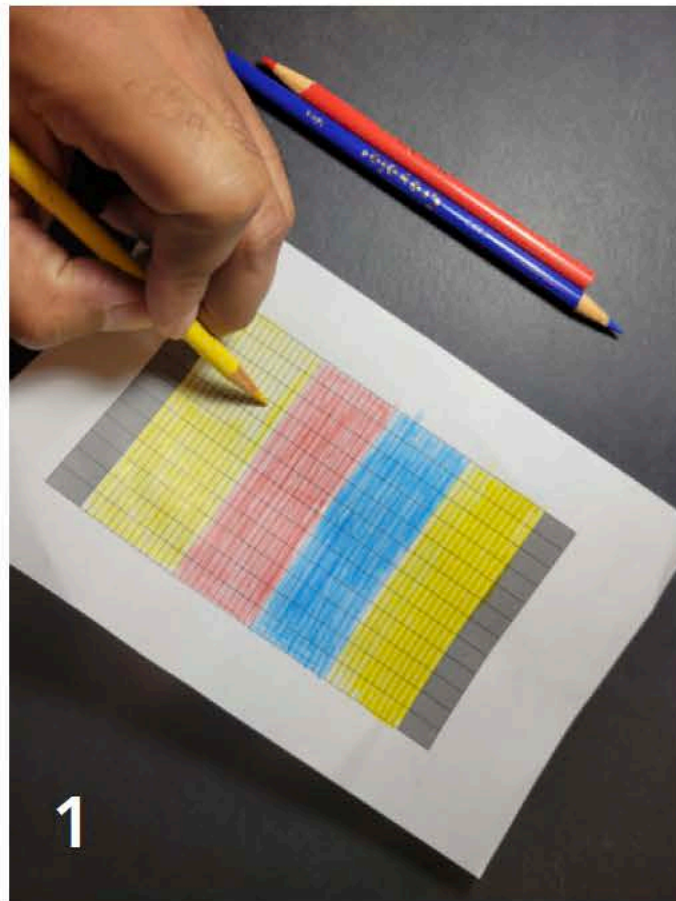


This activity is inspired by the exhibition *Weaving Splendor: Treasures of Asian Textiles from The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art*. The exhibition presents rarely seen textiles from China, India, Iran, Japan, and Turkey. *Weaving Splendor* highlights a combination of innovative and meticulous techniques as well as precious materials used by Asian textile artists.

Textiles include a wide range of decorative and functional objects such as ropes, wall hangings, flags, shawls, and sashes.

Weaving—interlacing **warp** and **weft** threads, often using a loom—is an ancient method of creating fabric that reaches astonishing heights in Asia. Each textile on view, whether woven from cotton, linen, silk, or wool, tells a complex and fascinating story. Dating from the fifteenth to the twenty-first centuries, they give insight into Asia’s diverse and enduring textile traditions.

Kashan, Iran (Safavid Period, 1501–1732). Tapestry-woven medallion carpet, early 17th century. Silk, gold, silver, and gilt silver metallic-wrapped thread in tapestry weave. The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Purchase: William Rockhill Nelson Trust, 32-70



Woven Miniature Rug

Objective

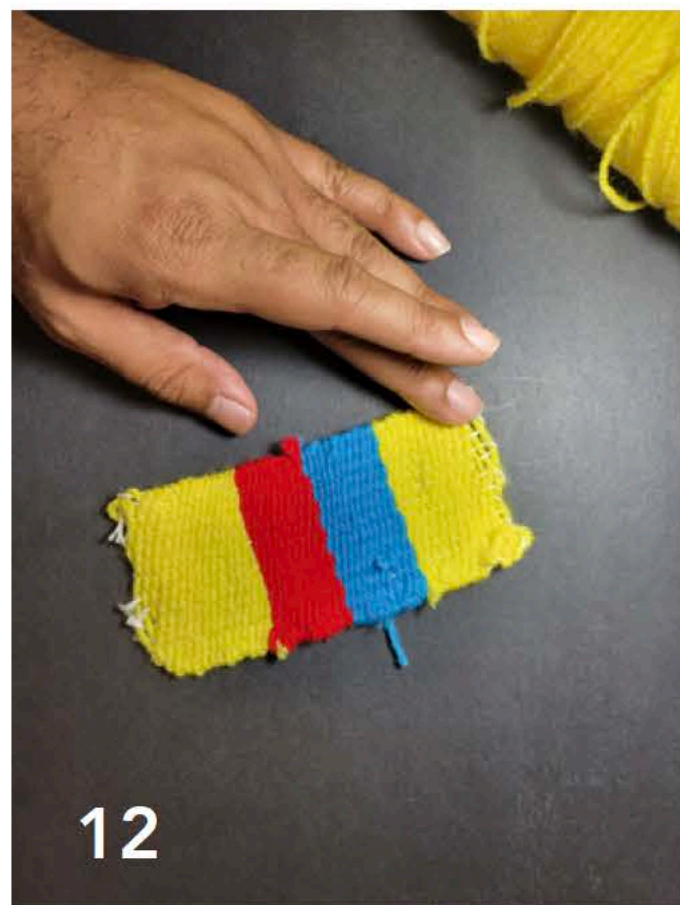
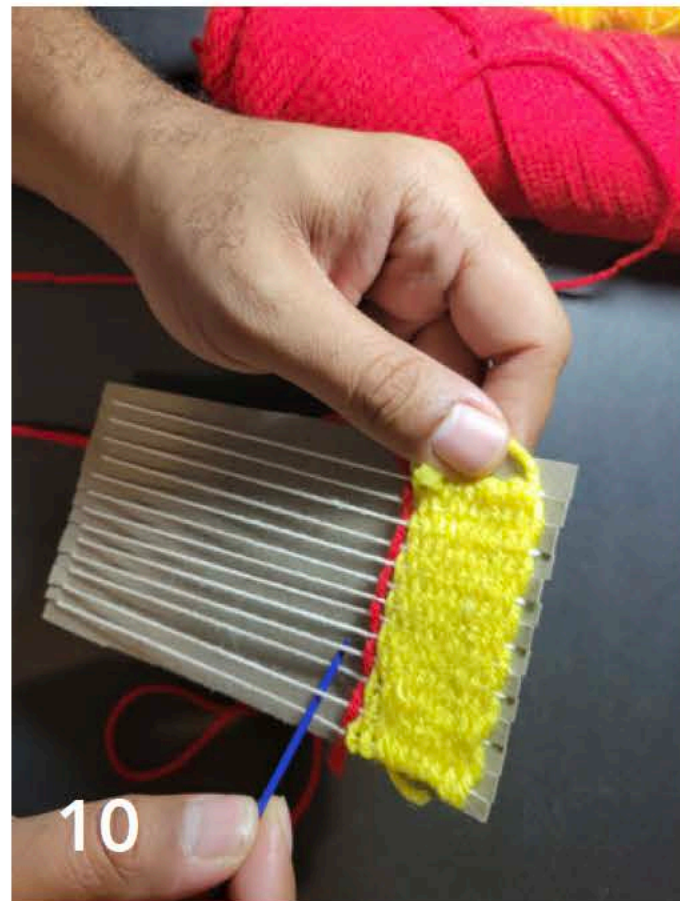
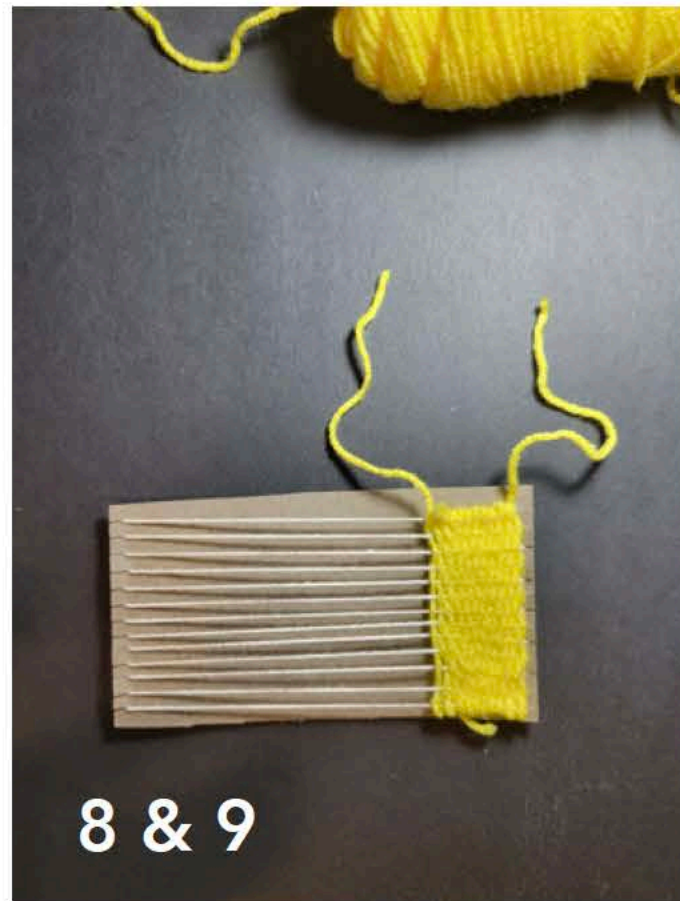
In this lesson inspired by the weaving techniques in *Weaving Splendor*, you will create a miniature rug on a small loom.

Materials

Design template
Pencil
Colored pencils
Cardboard loom
String
Tape
Scissors
Yarn in a variety of colors
Tapestry needle
Ruler

Steps

1. Use the design template to design your rug. Include simple lines and colors of your choice. Avoid complex shapes and images.
2. Warp the cardboard loom by taping one end of the string to the back of the cardboard, then looping it back and forth between the notches across the front of the loom.
3. Tape the loose ends of the string to the back side of the cardboard and, if necessary, cut off the excess.
4. Select a strand of weft yarn to begin weaving your design. Thread the yarn through the eye of the needle until it overlaps with itself by two or three inches.
5. Begin weaving by passing the needle and yarn through the warp using an under-and-over pattern.
6. Create the next row of the rug by weaving the weft yarn back through the warp, continuing the under-and-over pattern.
7. Pack this row snugly against the row below it by using a ruler or needle to push the yarn down.



8. Continue to weave with the first color until there are only 3–4 inches of yarn left on the needle.
9. Remove the needle from the yarn, leaving the excess weft yarn hanging off the side of the loom.
10. Select another strand of weft yarn and repeat the process.
11. Keep weaving until your rug is as long as your sketch (5–6 inches).
12. After all the tails have been woven into the rug, release the warp from the loom.

Note: Avoid weaving too tight or too loose to produce a more even fabric.

Glossary

Warp: The threads that run up and down on a loom or in a woven fabric.

Weft: The threads that run from side to side on a loom or in a woven fabric.