

Make your own weaving loom



Image courtesy of Pinterest.



How this links with the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site:

We have been making fabric using a method of weaving as far back as the Egyptians and probably beyond, but the Derwent Valley Mills revolutionised this process with their large scale cotton spinning process. You can visit Masson Mills in Matlock Bath and still see working machines producing fine cloth. The cotton spun at the mills throughout the Derwent Valley was made into cloth and is a rich part of the Derbyshire landscape.

You will need:

- Threads (wool or embroidery)
- Scissors



You will also need:

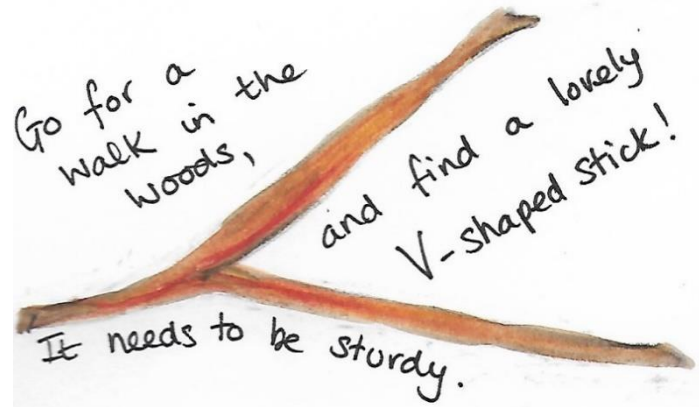
To go for a family walk to the woods and choose the best V shaped stick you can find.

How to have a go:

Step 1

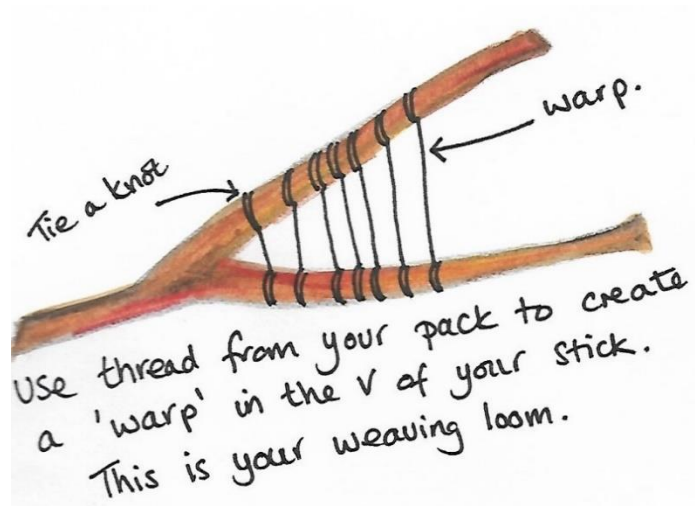
This stick will become your 'loom' for stringing a warp and weft onto.

This is the basics for creating your fabric by weaving threads together.



Step 2 – Thread your loom.

Tie a piece of embroidery thread (or string) to the bottom end of the V in your stick. Then wind your thread around each arm of the branch. As you wrap your string around each stick, make sure you do it twice to hold it in place before taking the thread to the opposite branch. This becomes your warp.

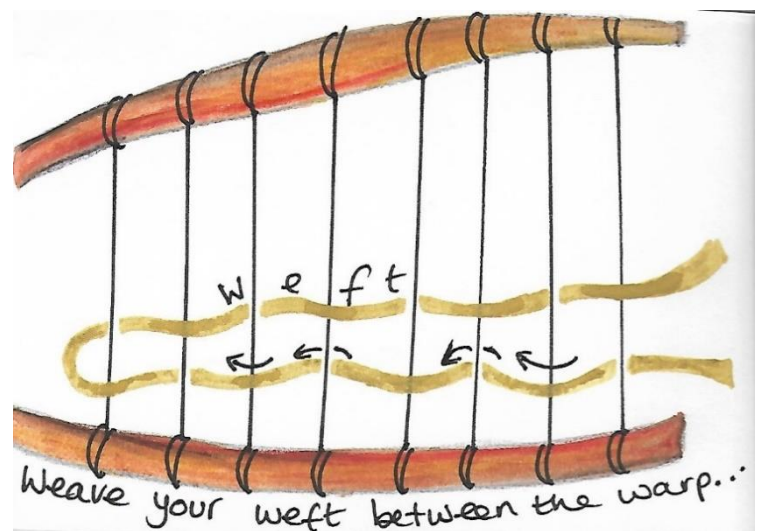


Step 3 – Weaving

Weave your embroidery thread in and out of the warp. Over one then under the next, repeat this, stopping to push the threads together so that they form a piece of fabric.

Experiment with the colours in the pack, (green goes with nearly everything!).

You can also leave the branches bare or cover them in wool or thread.



Alternatives:

If you find you really enjoyed this activity, you could try using bendy wood to make a circle, willow is best for this, but hazel twigs will also do.

You can then create your warp and weft to make a circular decorative weave.



You could also make a temporary, large nature loom in the woods, use two large sticks between two trees to create your loom and then use string and items from nature as your warp and weft.

Remember to leave the woods in the same state you found them with no trace that you'd been there.



Please let us know what you think of this activity and share your work with us

When you have had a go at this activity, we'd love to hear what you think, or see your work. Please send us any feedback below by 12th October 2020.

Post us your work – If you would like to post us any of your work or let us know what you think of this activity with a note with your name and address (and age if you'd like to share that). We are hoping to have an exhibition in the Autumn on one of the mill sites of the work created by people all along the valley. We will return all your work to you after the exhibition.

Postal address:

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Send us a photo – Email a photo of your creation to info@derwentvalleymills.org

Social Media – If you use social media use #DVMWHS Creativity and post the images of your work and tag us at:



Facebook: @DerwentValleyMillsWHS



Twitter: @DVMillsWHS



Instagram: @DerwentValleyMillsWHS

Hope you enjoy doing this craft activity!