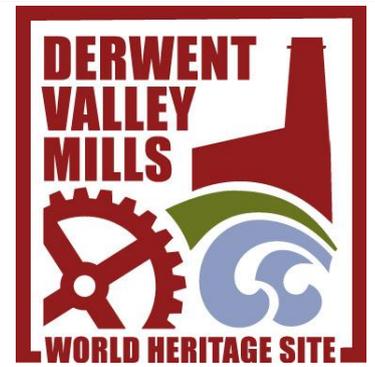


From Sketch to Stitch



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

One of the great skills of women at the time of the industrial revolution was their ability to sew and stitch beautiful samplers. This was regarded as an activity suitable for ladies and far removed from the hard work of the working class. This activity will help you create your own sampler like the ones Mrs Arkwright and her daughters would have done.

You will need:

- Embroidery Hoop
- Fabric
- Needles
- Pencil
- Drawing from our website (<http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/derwent-valley-mills-history/derwent-valley-mills-key-figures/>)
Or you can use one of your own
- Embroidery thread
- Scissors



How to have a go:

Step 1:

Take your embroidery hoop and loosen the screw at the top.



Step 2:

Place each hoop side by side.



Step 3:

Place your fabric on top of the ring which doesn't have the tightening screw.



Step 4:

Place the ring that has the screw on top of the fabric and push down gently so that it is holding the fabric in place.



Step 5:

Pull the fabric so that it is stretched in the hooped frame, just tight enough to have a little bit of movement in the fabric and not as tight as a drum.



Step 6:

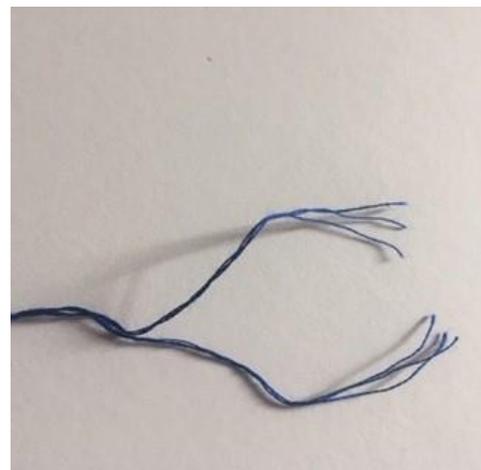
Gather the image you want to sew and your needles.

**Step 7:**

Using a needle, pin the picture to the fabric. If you have pins at home, you can use these if you prefer.

**Step 8:**

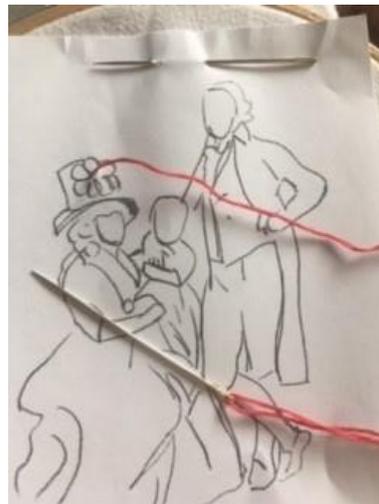
Choose the colour of embroidery thread you want to use. The threads are called six stranded embroidery thread, this is because they are made up of six thinner strands. I have used 3 strands for my embroidery by splitting the threads. This makes it easier to sew.



Step 9:

Tie a knot in one end of the thread and thread the needle to the other end.

Pull the thread through the fabric so that the knot is on the back of the picture. Then use back stitch (see below for stitch instructions) to sew along the lines.



Step 10:

Choose your favourite colours to create lines that will be the different parts of your picture.

It might feel strange to be sewing through paper and fabric, but once you have finished sewing, the paper will gently be pulled away.



Step 11:

Gently pull the paper away so that the stitches don't become too loose, use where you have pierced the paper with the needle to help loosen the paper.

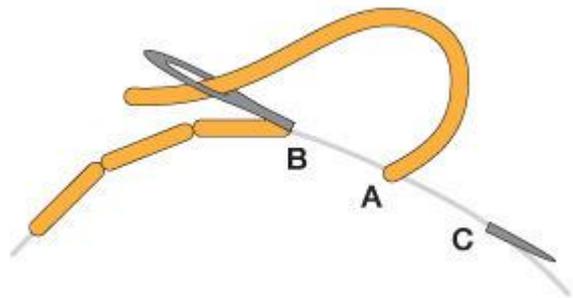
If it is too difficult to get the paper off, you can always soak it in water, finish removing the paper and hang the fabric to dry.



BACK STITCH

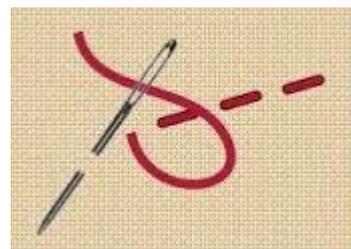
- A. Bring the thread out from the back of the fabric
- B. Go back in at B
- C. Bring it back through to C.

Repeat this process, it's called backstitch because you are taking the thread backwards to go forwards – sounds confusing but it quite easy once you get the hang of it.



RUNNING STITCH

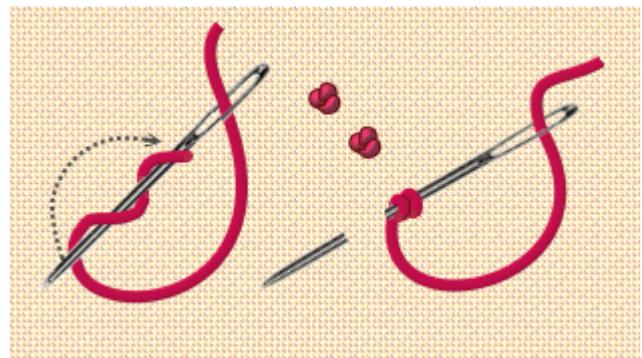
Easiest stitch of all, just go in and out of your fabric.



CHALLENGE! FRENCH KNOT

Quite tricky to master, but once you have, you can create lovely textures.

Wrap the thread around the needle, insert the needle into the fabric and pull the needle through the fabric. You need to keep the thread quite tight for this, have a go, you might be brilliant at this tricky little stitch.



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:

Georgina Greaves (DVMWHS Creativity Packs)
Derbyshire County Council
North Block S7 - County Hall
Matlock
Derbyshire DE4 3AG

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!