

## LESSON PLAN

# Fabric, Beads, Yarn, and More!

Inspired by Dorothy Grant & Robert Davidson, *Button Blanket*

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Grade Level Early Childhood Elementary

### Overview

Working with fabric provides many opportunities to introduce rich language and allow open-ended creativity to flow within your classroom. Yarn and ribbon along with natural materials found outside, are easily created into one-of-a-kind pieces that leave your students feeling proud of their work and wanting to share with others.

### Anticipatory Set

Get inspired by the fashion and designs of Haida artist Dorothy Grant. Take a look at some of her work and have students demonstrate their interpretation through weaving and beading. Ask students if they would wear what they create, talk about how the Haida philosophy Yaangudang means "self-respect" and how they can incorporate that into their designs.



Dorothy Grant & Robert Davidson,  
*Button Blanket*, 1994, wool with  
mother-of-pearl buttons & glass beads,  
58 x 56 in., Museum purchase, 1995.9

### Objectives

- Hand eye coordination
- Offers relaxing and tactile work experience
- Reinforces good habits such as following directions and patience
- Helps to find tune and develop fine motor skills
- Promotes right and left coordination
- Increases attention span and focus

### Resources

- Joslyn Art Museum's Dorothy Grant teaching poster\*
  - <http://dorothygrant.com/>
  - Book-"Kids Weaving: Projects for Kids of All Ages"
  - <http://www.projectwild.org/growingupwild.htm>
- \*Available via Joslyn's Nelson Teacher Resource Center <http://www.joslyn.org/education/teachers>

### Supplies

- |            |                 |
|------------|-----------------|
| • Yarn     | • Hole Punchers |
| • Beads    | • Sticks        |
| • Scissors | • Grasses       |
| • Markers  | • Ribbon        |

### Vocabulary

- |           |                     |
|-----------|---------------------|
| • Texture | • Nylon             |
| • Wool    | • Weaving, Woven    |
| • Silk    | • Knitted, Knitting |
| • Cotton  | • Loom              |
| • Jute    | • Beading           |

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### Lesson Outline

Project 1) Natural Weaving: After showing your students several of Dorothy Grant's works, discuss using nature as inspiration.

Take them outside to gather sticks and long grasses, leaves, and any other natural materials they might use.

Have them lay sticks in the shape of a square with the ends overlapping and creating an X.

Wrap yarn around the X and tie them together creating your loom.

Take additional yarn and wrap around two of the long ends of the sticks. Then take natural materials and weave through yarn.

Project 2) T-Shirt Designs: Copy T-Shirt prints onto cardstock and have students cut out.

Then, supply hole punchers and have students punch holes around the edges and in the middle of shirt.

Lastly, take yarn and weave in and out of holes adding beads or ribbon as they go along.

### Extensions

- Nature Education
- Fabric Textiles and where they come from
- Native American and Alaskan Tribal wear
- Fashion and Fabric

### Academic Standards

Available on online version at [www.joslyn.org/education/teachers/thursdays-for-teachers](http://www.joslyn.org/education/teachers/thursdays-for-teachers) [select Lesson Plans, then American Indian]