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PCK

Activities

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🐆 About Hannah Ryggen

Hannah Ryggen was an artist who lived in Norway. She began her career as a teacher and also studied painting. Over time, she took an interest in tapestry and taught herself how to weave.

A tapestry is a piece of fabric created to be an interesting **design or picture**. The tapestry is made by weaving long colourful threads together on a loom.

Hannah worked at home on a small family farm in Norway where she lived with her husband and daughter.

Hannah used wool from the local sheep to spin into yarn and she experimented using different plants to make natural dyes to colour the yarn.

How to make a cardboard loom

Follow these steps to make your own loom out of cardboard

1. Find a strong piece of card that is a **square** or rectangle 3

>2. Using a ruler, make a mark every centimetre across the top of the card.

> 3. Repeat the marks across the bottom of the card so they match.



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Can you tell a story with just one image?

Tapestries have been used for centuries to tell stories and record events, often without using any words. An image alone can send a powerful

message. Hannah Ryggen used her tapestries to protest and communicate what was going

on in the world at the time.

Using just one image could you show something

that is **going on in the world** around you now?

5. To warp the loom, wrap yarn or string from top to bottom, using each tab to hold the string in place.



6. Fasten the string to the back of the card using sticky tape.

7. You are now ready to weave different coloured weft threads across the card under and over the warp threads.



Indigo is a **natural dye** that comes from a plant called **indigofera**. They mostly grow in tropical areas of the world. It is one of the oldest known colours that has been used by people for thousands of years to dye wool and silk. When Hannah made bright blue dyes for her tapestries she used indigo and to make the colour stick she used wee.



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What do you think now?

Now you have seen the exhibition, what do you think? Are your thoughts different to before you looked around the show?

Take a few moments to write or draw something and then check to see what you did at the beginning.





