



MAINE MUSEUM OF  
INNOVATION  
LEARNING +  
LABOR

# Weaving Natural Materials Activity

Teacher's Guide

# Weaving Natural Materials Activity

## Grades PK-2

**Time:** 1-2, 45 min. class periods

### **Materials Needed**

1. Scraps of cardboard
2. Scissors
3. String, twine or yarn
4. Tape

### **Introduction**

The changing seasons offer a wealth of opportunities for outdoor play and learning. The natural world becomes a classroom, where children can observe the life cycle of plants and animals, learn about different types of insects and birds, and discover the wonders of the changing seasons. It's a chance for them to get their hands dirty, to connect with nature, and to develop a sense of wonder and appreciation for the environment. This simple, inexpensive project can be done anytime of year, taking advantage of what the season has to offer for materials. Long blades of grass, leaves, small sticks, flowers or any small natural item that is flexible can be woven onto the loom.

### **Instructions**

#### **Creating a Simple Cardboard Loom**

1. Cut a rectangular piece of cardboard (approximately 4" x 6").
2. Make notches along both ends, about ½" long and ½" apart.
3. Wind string, twine, or thread around the cardboard through the notches. Secure the ends with tape. Ensure the string is taut but doesn't bend the cardboard.

#### **Gather Materials Outside**

1. Go outside to explore and gather materials. Encourage children to pick a variety of materials with lots of different colors. Remind them that all materials must be small enough to fit on their loom

#### **Creating a Nature Weaving**

1. Using the cardboard loom, weave natural materials over and under the strings. Start with long, thick pieces like blades of grass. Loop back at the ends when possible.
2. Continue weaving until you reach the end of the loom. Use small leaves, flowers, sticks, or other items that fit within the loom.
3. Older children can weave independently. Younger children may require assistance but can still participate by gathering materials and helping with the weaving process.