The Big Idea

Learn to be resourceful and innovative by making colorful creations from unexpected, common household objects while learning the process of weaving from home.

You'll Need

- Scissors
- Set of four sticks or four pens/pencils
- Scrap fabric or old clothing to cut up (2-4 different colors if possible)
- Alternative materials: Rubber bands, Yarn
- Step-By-Step video tutorial:
  www.think360arts.org

The Plan

Step 1 - Cut 10-20 strips of fabric from old clothing or scrap fabric. The strips should be 2 fingers wide (About 1 inch) and as long as the fabric allows.

Step 2 - Create a loom! Use a set of four sticks to create a square frame, with about 1 inch of each stick poking out from the square frame.

- Using yarn or a strip of fabric, wrap each cross where the sticks overlap, leaving about an inch or two of excess fabric at the beginning.
- Be sure to loop across horizontally a few times, then vertically a few times before tying a knot with the initial tail.
- Repeat this process for all 4 corners so your frame is connected.
Step 3 - Add fabric to the inside!

Option one: Tie fabric strip to one stick and wrap around in whatever pattern you like, creating an engaging and exciting line design.

Option two: Use weaving techniques!

- Tie fabric strip to one stick, and wrap up and down all the way across the frame. This vertical wrapping is called the warp.
- Using a different color fabric, tie the strip to the perpendicular stick and begin weaving the fabric across, over a layer and under a layer of the warp. This new strip is called the weft.
- Continuing this process across the frame, make sure each time you weave the weft across, you are going over and under opposite from the line previously done, this creates the checkered look and strengthens the interlacing of strips into a solid mat of fabric.
- When at the end of the frame, tie the last piece off onto the stick.

Step 4 - Final Touches!

- Using smaller pieces of fabric, tie with loose ends to the frame to create fringe
- Add a loop at the top for hanging and hang somewhere!

Teaching Artist Tip

- This process is made simpler by using thicker strips of fabric, and made more challenging by using thinner strips or even yarn.
- Make sure while weaving that each cross thread is going over and under opposite of the previous line across, creating a checkered look. If there are no checkers, think about backtracking to assure this step.
- Feeling confident? Try making something larger using kitchen skewers, larger sticks or branches, or even a hula hoop.

Going Further

- Have you seen this woven pattern before? Where?
- Think about your clothing, your bedsheets, or favorite cozy blanket, does it look woven to you? Where do you think it comes from and what would that loom look like?