

## Pre Lesson Activity Ideas

### Introduction

Discuss how humans use plants.

### Activity 1

Gather together a collection of plant-based foods and everyday items made from plants. Find pictures of the living plants to put next to the product.

### Activity 2

Give each child a sample of woven and knitted material and allow them to take them apart to examine the construction method. Can they draw the way the threads are interlocked.

### Activity 3

Look at primary colours and create a colour wheel. Learn how to mix colours

## Post Lesson Activity Ideas

### Introduction

Discuss colours and how humans might have coloured their clothes, themselves and their belongings before chemicals were used.

### Activity 1

Ask each child to bring in a few handfuls of soil from home. Augment this with school soil and perhaps soil from different places in your area, in order to have a wide selection of soil colours – yellow, orange, light/dark brown, red. Collect a variety of leaves, sticks, berries, fruits and flowers from the school garden or home. Children to use soils and plant materials to make natural paints – squashing and smearing them on paper. How many colours can they make ?

### Activity 2

Give children A4 pieces of cardboard, with the top and bottom edges slit 2cm deep. Wrap wool around the slits to form the warp threads and weave coloured wools (using thick crewel needles) over and under the ones, pushing them tightly together to form a material.

### Other ideas

- [www.teachingideas.co.uk/dt/weaving.htm](http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/dt/weaving.htm) - weaving with lolly sticks
- [www.montessoriworl.org/Handwork/weave/weaving3.html](http://www.montessoriworl.org/Handwork/weave/weaving3.html) - a number of different techniques of weaving using cardboard to fingers as the loom!
- Could have a go a using a peg loom see: [www.ascott.biz/acatalog/Weaving\\_Peg\\_Looms.html](http://www.ascott.biz/acatalog/Weaving_Peg_Looms.html) for possible ideas and equipment.

## Autumn Weaving

This is great activity to follow a walk in the autumn.

You will need:

- A large Hoop (The sort used for physical activities)
- Brown crepe paper
- Glue stick
- A ball of Brown wool or thin string
- Wool, ribbon, thin strips of material in colours that you would associate with Autumn such as yellow, orange, or brown
- Leaves, twigs or similiar things that you might find on a nature walk

To make the basic frame you need to cut some strips of brown crepe about 4cm wide and as long as possible. Wind a piece of crepe around the hoop overlapping each wind by about 1cm, this helps to keep the crepe in place. When you need to start a new piece secure it in place with a spot of glue before continuing to cover the hoop. The number of strips you will need will depend on the length of the strips. When the hoop is covered secure the end with another spot of glue.

Now you need to string the hoop and make a basic weaving framework. Using either brown wool or thin string tie the end tightly around the hoop and then tie it again on the opposite side of the hoop to form a diagonal, cut the wool/string. Tie the next piece about 4cm along the hoop from the first and tie it on the opposite side again 4cm away so the wool is parallel as shown in the diagram. Repeat until there is no more room on that side then match the other side of the diagonal in the same way.

You now need to make the cross strings. these are attached in the same way but are woven over and under the first set of strings at 90 dgees the aim is to end up like the strings on a tennis racquet.

Start again in the middle and after tying the first piece of wool/string to the hoop weave it over then under, then over etc the first set of strings and then tie off. Add the second string, this time going under first, then over, then underto the end. Continue to add the other strings alternating the weaving so that the strings eventually form a mesh. The children usually love helping with this.

When this is complete you are now ready to weave into the frame the ribbons, strips of material and wool. The lengths of these materials can vary and they don't have to be woven all the way across they can go back on themselves to form a block of colour. Several children can be working on the weaving at the same time and of course you can have several being made at the same time. Leaves and twigs etc can then be added by tuck-ing them in amongst the woven materials.

The hoops can be displayed on a wall or hung, if you choose to hang them you may want to add leaves etc on both sides of the weaving.

