



SONOMA VALLEY MUSEUM OF ART

Art Rewards The Student

ARTS@Home



Shoebox Faces

Teaching Artist:

Diane Egger-Bovet

Lesson Overview:

Project Description: After decorating a shoebox with different kinds of paper, students can warp it with yarn, string, or rubber bands and turn it into a loom. Then a variety of facial features can be drawn, cut out, and woven between the strings to make an interesting, floating face.

Medium or Technique: Assemblage, Weaving, Collage

Materials Used: Marker and/or Colored Pencil, Pencil, Assorted Paper, Ruler, Shoebox (or other Shallow Box), Rubber Bands, Old Shoelaces, String or Yarn, Glue or Glue Stick, Tape

Grade Level: Grade 3 and up (younger with help)

CA Visual Arts Standards:

Grade 3: 2.1 Create personally satisfying artwork using a variety of artistic processes and materials. 2.2 Demonstrate an understanding of the safe and proficient use of materials, tools, and equipment for a variety of artistic processes.

Grade 4: 2.1 Explore and invent art-making techniques and approaches., 2.2 When making works of art, utilize and care for materials, tools, and

equipment in a manner that prevents danger to oneself and others.

Grade 5: 1.1 Creativity is a skill you can develop: Combine ideas to generate an innovative idea for art-making, 2.1 Experiment and develop skills in multiple art-making techniques and approaches through practice, 2.2 Demonstrate quality craftsmanship through care for and use of materials, tools, and equipment.

Grade 6: 2.1 Demonstrate openness in trying new ideas, materials, methods, and approaches in making works of art and design.

Materials:



Instructions:

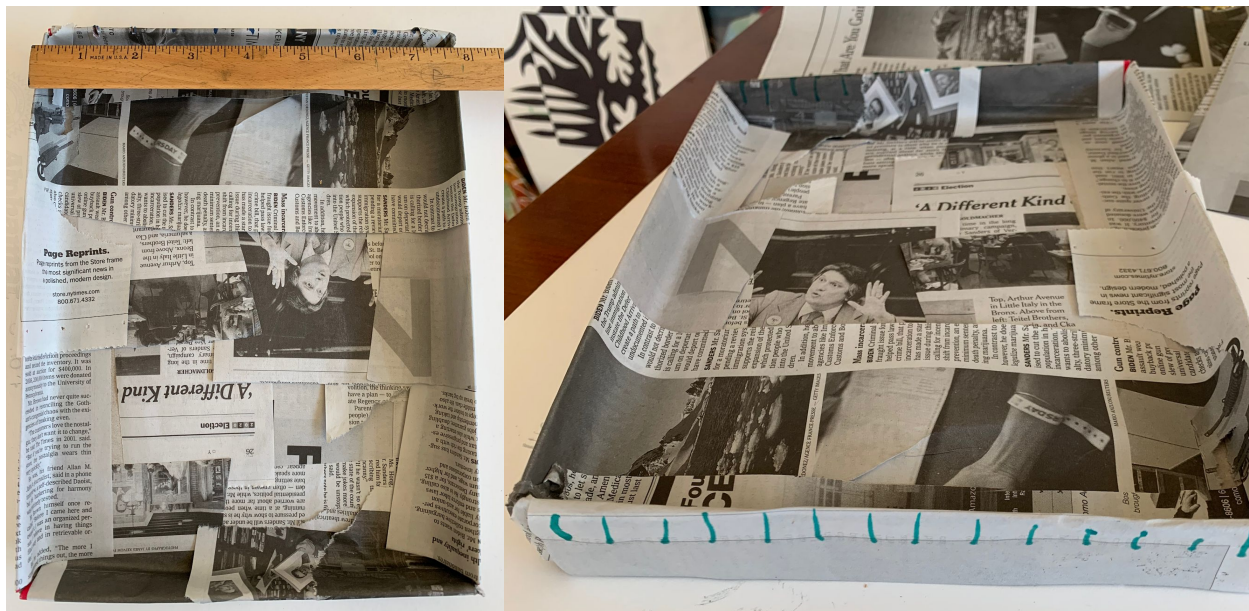
Step 1: Cover your box

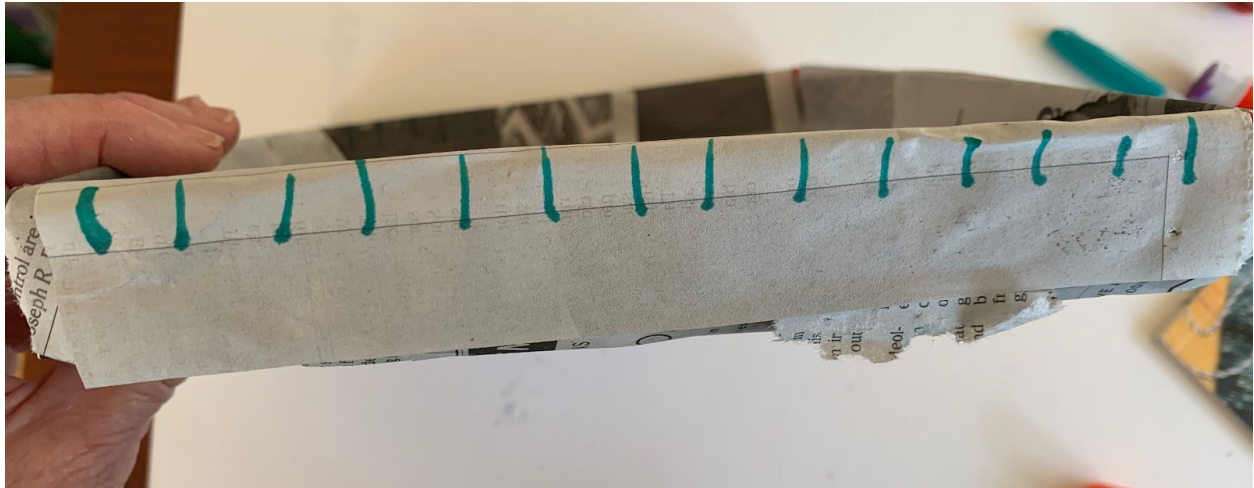


Choose a shoebox lid (or cut down a larger box). Glue pieces of paper to cover the inside of the box and the sides of the lid. Covering the back is optional.

You can use scissors or just rip pieces with your hands. Anything goes: folding, using lots of small pieces, using one large piece, combining different colors, making stripes, or creating other interesting designs. You decide. Just cover the whole thing and glue it down. Get creative and see what you can find around that you can use for paper.

Step 2: Measure and mark





Take your ruler and your pencil and mark off $\frac{1}{2}$ " sections on the top and bottom of the lid. These will be your guide lines. Count the marks on the top. That will be the number of times you will wrap your string or yarn around the lid.

Step 3: How much string will you need?



You can estimate the amount of string you will need by taking a piece of string and wrapping it around the lid once. Start at the top where your marks are and go down to the bottom, around the back, and back up to where you started. Measure that piece of string with your ruler. You will need that amount of string \times the number of marks. Example: Say you have 12 marks, and the string you wrapped around once was 20 inches. That means you will need 20 inches \times 12, or 240 inches. That's 20 feet!

Or . . . just grab a big ball of string or yarn and start wrapping!

Step 4: Wrap (or WARP!) your box



Tape one end of the string to the back of your lid and start wrapping the string around and around. Don't worry if the string doesn't exactly match where your marks are. You can move them into place later. Keep wrapping and pulling the string so that it is taut (another word for tight) and you have one string for each line. Tape the end of the string to the back of your box so that it is hidden. Now move the lines of string so that they are about where your marks are. Tape each one in place on the ends so that they won't move. You can put some tape on the strings in the back as well so they are more secure.



Remember that it doesn't have to be perfect. You have now “warped” your shoebox lid loom!

Note: If you use rubber bands you just need to put them around your lid so they match up with your marks. If the rubber bands are too small they will pull the sides in, so if you can, find ones that will stretch nice and far.

In weaving, the **Warp** threads are the ones running the length of the whole cloth. Here, they go up and down and stretch from the top to the bottom of your paper shoebox loom.

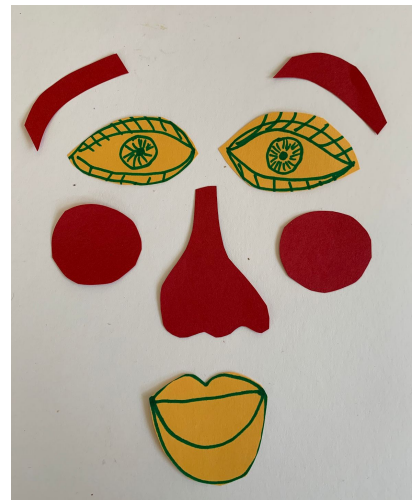
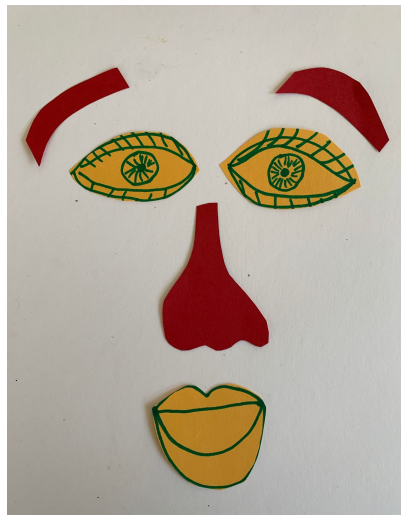
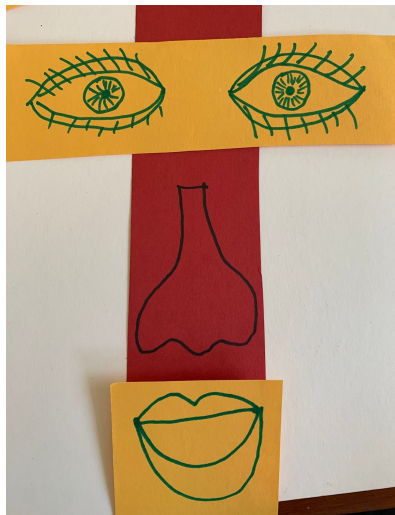
The threads that go sideways and cross the warp to create a pattern in the cloth are called the **Weft**. Instead of string though, you'll be using paper!

Step 5: Make some faces!



Take your construction paper, or whatever paper you are using, and draw eyes, a nose, and a mouth. You can draw eyebrows, cheeks, and even ears too! They have to be big enough so that you can weave them onto your loom. If you make them at least 2 inches wide, you should be fine. Cut them out carefully.

Now you can weave them, under and over the strings, so that they stay in place. Where you put them is up to you. You can make lots of different eyes, noses and mouths so that you can mix, match, and even change them!



As you look at your finished piece, here is an interesting question that you can ask yourself:

Does it feel **balanced**?

Balance: *the distribution of the visual weight of objects, colors, texture, and space. If the design was a scale where you balanced things, these elements should be evenly distributed to make the design feel stable. (There are different kinds of balance, including symmetrical, asymmetrical, radial, etc.)*