

Spencer Museum Art Cart: Woven Worlds



unknown Hausa-Fulani maker
[woven basketry food cover or mat](#)



unknown Hausa-Fulani maker
[woven fan](#)

This activity features a woven mat and fan made by people living in Nigeria.

The objects included in this activity were made by the Hausa-Fulani peoples in western Africa. We don't know if the colors used in these objects represent anything specific, but many of the same colors are found in both objects.

Look at the woven works of art. Click on the titles or search the Spencer's [collection](#) online to learn more about the artworks.

- What colors do you see?
- What materials do you think these are made of?
- Describe the types of patterns created by the weaving.

The woven mat is made from plastic, plants, and different colored string. The mat can also be used as cover for bowls to keep food warm. The woven fan is made from plants, wood, string, and leather. You would wave the fan by spinning the handle, not by waving it back and forth.

INSTRUCTIONS

For this activity, you will need:

- 5 straws
- tape
- various colors of yarn
- scissors

Use these materials to create a weaving. The length is up to you! You could weave a bookmark, a scarf, a bracelet, a coaster, or anything else you can imagine. Think about the meaning of color to you. Also, think about the pattern that is created while you weave.

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Color Symbolism

Red can represent bravery and strength

Blue can represent water and the sky

Green can represent the land where food grows

Orange can represent friendliness and hospitality

Yellow can represent hospitality and generosity

White can represent peace and purity

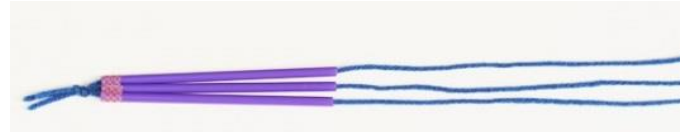
Black can represent the hardships in life

What do these colors mean to you?

STEP 1: Tape straws together.



STEP 2: Cut 5 strings the same length (warp), fish them through the straws and tie off **both ends**.



STEP 3: Pick a color to start weaving with, cut a piece from the yarn ball, and tie it onto one of the outer strings.



STEP 4: Weave back and forth through the straws. You will need to tie ends of string together to switch colors.



STEP 5: Once you have decided that you are finished, push the entire weaving down onto the strings and cut the top knot off. Pull the string out of the straws and retie.

