

# Weaving With Nature

Discipline: Visual Arts

Mess-level: Minimal 🖐️🖐️🖐️🖐️

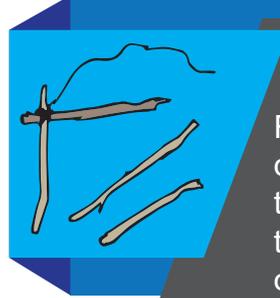


## OVERVIEW

There are amazing tiny discoveries to be made outside, even in a patch of lawn beneath a tree. Clovers, dandelions, even the blades of grass themselves can be used to create art. If you have access to a patch of trees or a garden, you have a goldmine. This activity has children use sticks (or other materials) to create a simple loom with yarn. Then nature finds are wrapped within to make a beautiful hanging.

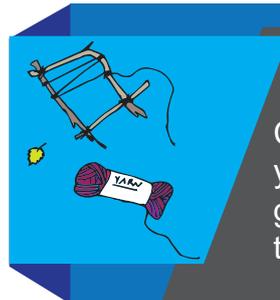
## MATERIALS

- ✓ Yarn or other string
- ✓ Sticks (about 4 per child), or chopsticks, pencils, bamboo skewers -- whatever fits your needs
- ✓ Found items from nature, including leaves, grass, weeds, ferns, and flowers



### Step 1

Find sticks (or pencils or small dowels) to con-struct the frame of the loom. Wrap yarn tightly to hold the pieces together. Sometimes you only need 2 or 3 curvy sticks.



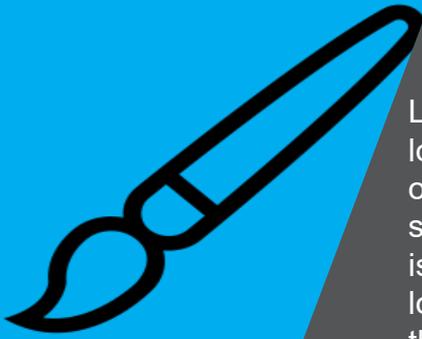
### Step 2

Create the loom with a long strand of yarn. Tie the yarn onto one side, then go back and forth. It often works best to double-warp the yarn on each side.



### Step 3

Once the loom is built, weave nature elements into the yarn going across from the direction of the yarn strands. You can hang these from the ceiling or in front of a window.



## Keep It Going!

Looms invite us to play with scale. Use a hula hoop to make large looms, or small sticks to make a tiny loom. Use the monkey bars or other playground equipment to make a truly enormous loom, stretching yarn across long distances. A fun game with large looms is to challenge children to fit themselves between the spaces in the loom. You can even make a connection to “may poles,” large poles that would be “woven” by dancers moving between and through each other. Can you move your bodies to make a weaving?



## Keep It Going!

One of the most amazing weavers of nature is a spider. Children may not know that spiders are not insects -- they are arachnids! They create their own silk and shoot it out of their body using spinnerettes. And just like they have 8 legs, most spiders have 8 eyeballs as well. Bring in an informational book about spiders, or go on a hunt for a spider or spider web. Tell children about the important work that spiders do for a spider or a spider web. Tell children about the important work that spiders do for us, especially catching and eating mosquitoes.