

BLUE

Age Range: Elementary School (Grades 3-4)

Concept: Monochromatic Paper Weaving

This art activity is based on *BLUE: A HISTORY OF THE COLOR AS DEEP AS THE SEA AND AS WIDE AS THE SKY*. Written by Nana Ekua Brew-Hammond & illustrated by Daniel Minter, this picture book is featured in the 2022 Beautiful Blackbird Children's Book Festival.



Prompt:

Intertwine tones of blue with histories of blue and indigo to create a paper tapestry.

Materials:

- 3 Tones of Blue Construction Paper
- Blue Pencil or Crayon
- Scissors
- Picture book *BLUE: A HISTORY OF THE COLOR AS DEEP AS THE SEA AND AS WIDE AS THE SKY* by Nana Ekua Brew-Hammond
- Optional: Blue Tissue Paper, Glue Stick

Steps:

1. Select one sheet of blue paper to be the warp of your weaving, this will serve as the vertical lines
2. Fold this paper in half on the long side (hamburger fold), using your drawing tool start at the folded edge and draw five lines across leaving space at the end (about a thumbs length). Space these lines as evenly as you can.
3. Keeping the paper folded, use your scissors to cut along these lines, along the folded edge
4. Open your paper and you now have your 6 warp sections, if you make a mistake and cut to the end take another piece of paper and try again, we can use this cut paper as a weft.
5. With your warp structure, choose 3 sections to write something new you learned about the history of blue from the book. As the artist you can play with the text creating a unique font, and changing the direction of your words.
6. Using the other construction papers, cut medium width strips
7. Write on these strips of paper about the color blue: Blue reminds me of... Blue makes me feel... Blue is the color of...
8. Gently weave these paper strips into your warp. Begin weaving pattern A left to right: over, under, over, under, over, under. Push these papers to the top of the warp. Using another paper strip create the pattern B left to right: under, over, under, over, under, over.
9. Alternate between pattern A and pattern B until you have filled your warp completely with a full paper weaving tapestry.
10. Glue around the edges, the sections that overlap to secure from slipping out. Optional: take tissue paper or other blue collage papers and cut those into sections to collage on to the blank areas of the warp, adding additional textures and tones of blue.