

DESIGN &amp; TECHNOLOGY / ART · Y1–Y4

# Paper Weaving

Make a woven placemat

## You will need

Materials list

- A4 card in one colour (this is the WARP — the base)
- A4 paper in at least 2 contrasting colours (these are the WEFT — the strips)
- Scissors
- Ruler and pencil
- Glue stick or tape (to finish the edges)
- Optional: laminate the finished mat to make it waterproof for actual use

## Step by step

1. WARP: Fold your A4 card in half lengthways. Starting from the fold, cut parallel lines every 2cm — STOP 2cm from the open edge. Unfold. You now have a frame with cuts across it.
2. WEFT strips: Cut your coloured paper into strips 2cm wide and 30cm long. You need about 10–12 strips.
3. Take your first strip. Weave it OVER the first warp strip, UNDER the second, OVER the third... all the way across.
4. Take your second strip. This time go UNDER the first warp strip, OVER the second, UNDER the third...
5. Push each strip down firmly so there are no gaps.
6. Continue alternating over/under to the end of the frame.



7. Fold the ends over the back of the frame and glue to secure.
8. Trim any edges to neaten.

## Design extensions

1. Plan a colour pattern BEFORE you start weaving. Can you make a diagonal stripe or checkerboard?
2. Can you use three colours of strips instead of two?
3. What would change if your strips were 1cm wide instead of 2cm?
4. Research textile traditions from around the world — how does West African kente cloth use colour and pattern?

