

THE DRAWING ROOM TAPESTRY

Have you seen the amazing tapestry in the Hospitalfield drawing room?

It was made by weaving lots of fine threads together to make an image of a beautiful landscape, trees, a river and people.

Until recently we didn't know much about the tapestry, but a very observant resident of Hospitalfield noticed that it shows a scene from a book called *L'Astreé* by Messire Honore D'Urbe, written a long time ago. The tapestry shows the story of Celadon, a French shepherd deeply in love with the beautiful Astrea. When his love believes he has been unfaithful and tells him to never again speak to her, Celadon throws himself into a river in despair. He tumbles and turns as he's launched down the fast flowing river until he's thrown to the shore miles downstream. Three nymphs resting by the side of the river find him and believe him to be drowned. But when they see that he is breathing, they take him to a nearby palace to be nursed back to health...

The weaver of the tapestry has used very few colours, mostly blues and greens, to tell this story of love and heartbreak. What do these colours make you think of?

Would you like to try weaving?

We have a frame loom and some wool

for you to have a go at making your own tapestry!

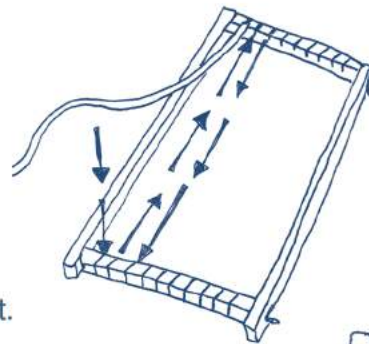
First you have to set up the loom.

Choose a colour of wool and tie a big not in the end.

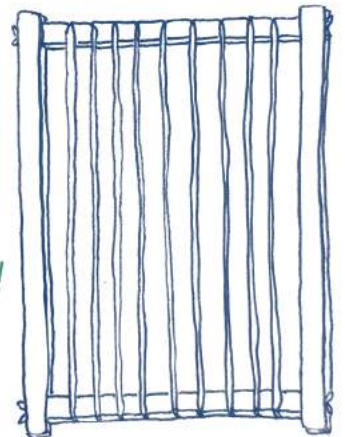
Take this knot and slip it into the first gap at the top of the loom, then stretch it down to the bottom of the loom and slip it into the first gap at the bottom.

Tuck the wool behind and back through to the next gap to the front.

Stretch the wool to the other end and slide it into the next gap.



Do this all the way along until you've stretched the wool across the whole of the loom. It should look like this:



Now you're ready to weave!

Select your wool colours carefully.

What colours can you see around you at Hospitalfield?

Do you see a painting or piece of furniture with colours that you really like?

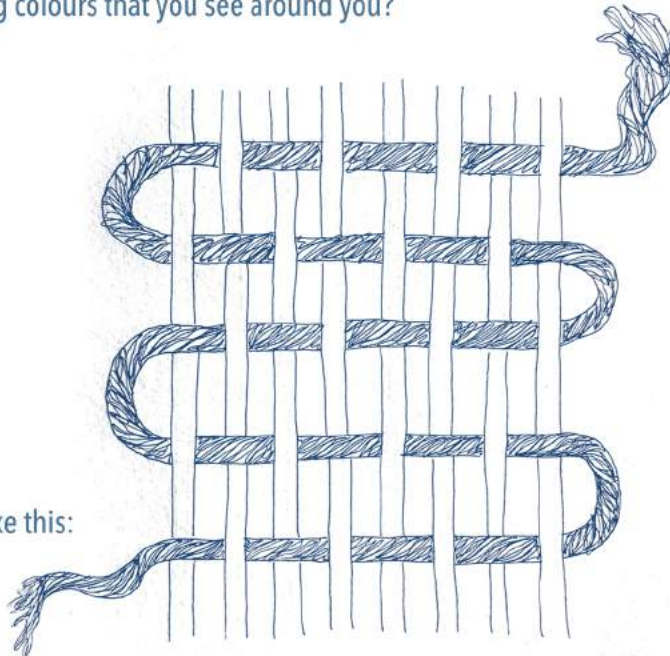
Why not make a tapestry using colours that you see around you?

We have lots of choice!

Pass another piece of wool over and under the strings of your loom, all the way along until you reach the end.

Go back the other way, **over and under, over and under, over and under.**

The yarn will criss-cross, making a pattern that looks like this:



Keep working back and forth until you've filled the frame with colour.

When you're finished, snip the ends and tie each of them in a knot, and you've made your own mini tapestry!