

WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

studio **class**  
programs  
& workshops



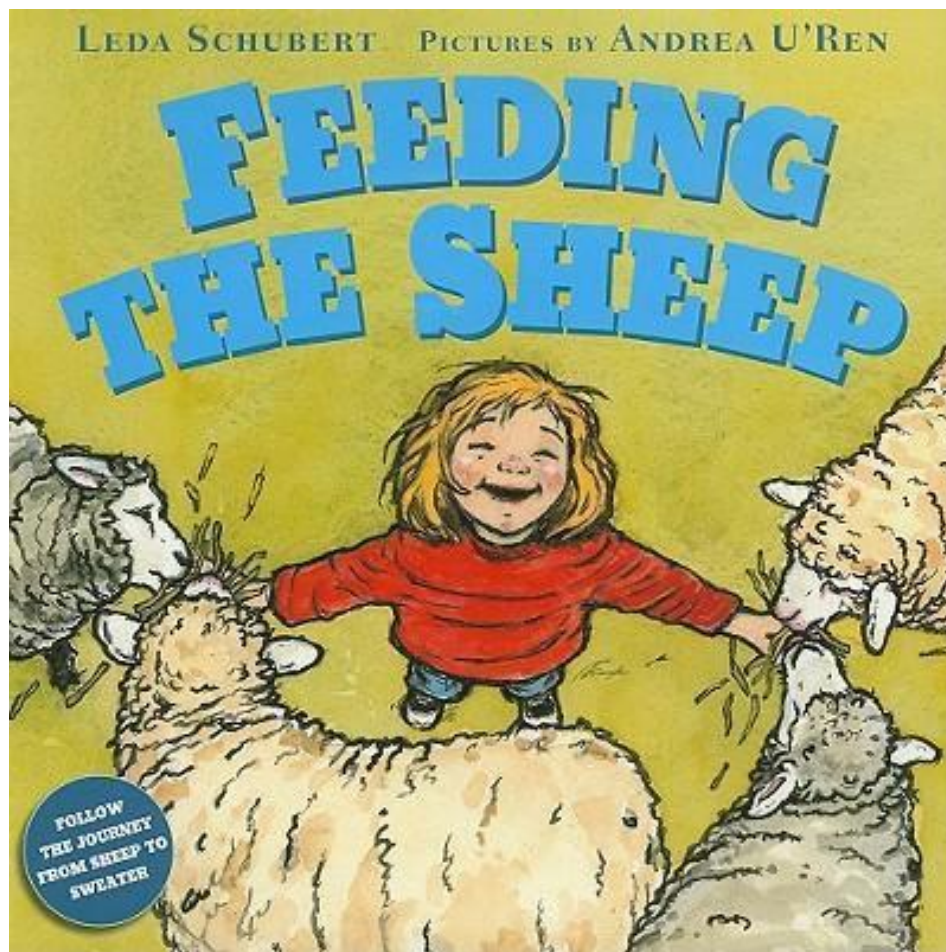
## Warp and Weft

Featured Story:

By Leda Schubert, Pictures by Andrea U'Ren

### Feeding the Sheep

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## Inspiration from WAM's Collection



**Tapestry  
Depicting  
Godfrey  
of  
Bouillon**  
about 1500,  
Flemish or  
French, dyed  
wool with  
later repairs  
([eMuseum  
Link](#))

This large woven image is 8.5 by 6.5 feet large! These artwork tapestries were made for decor and to help keep rooms warm.



**Tapestry**  
not dated, Peruvian, cloth,  
1921.36 ([eMuseum Link](#))

This detail example of tapestry from Peru in South America shows a bright abstracted bird pattern. Fabrics and textiles have been used to design all over the world and throughout time!



### Fan

1800s, Chinese, lacquered sticks, ivory figure heads, cloth, 1933.6  
([eMuseum Link](#))

This beautiful fan reminds us that cloth can be used with other materials to create beautiful art and functional objects.



**Vest; 11  
Buttons, 2  
pockets  
with flaps**  
19th century,  
maker  
unknown,  
brocaded silk  
with design of  
fruit and tree  
motifs, 1946.32  
([eMuseum Link](#))

And of course, we do not want to forget to include costume or fashion in our fabric-based lesson!

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## Paper Weaving

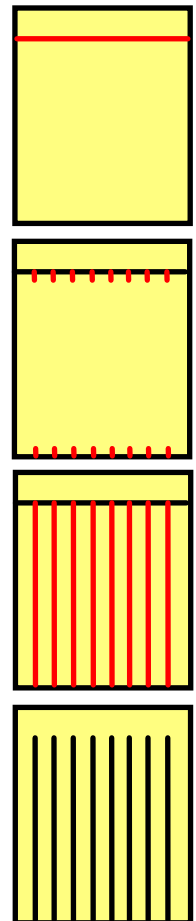
### Supplies

- 2 or more sheets of paper of different colors
- Scissors
- Ruler or straight edge
- Pencil
- Glue stick or tape



### Create

1. Pick which color paper will be your weaving base - your warp.
2. Using your ruler or straight edge, draw a line all the way across to top of your base/warp paper.
3. Along the line you drew, mark every 1 inch from the left side of the paper.
4. On the opposite side from the long line, mark every one inch on the edge of the paper starting from the left side.
5. Connect these one inch marks, but do not draw further than the long line at the top of the paper.
6. Cut the lines that are one inch apart, but stop at the line - do not cut all the way with the paper
7. When done, you should have a base paper that has many strips still attached together at the top.
8. Next, cut your other paper pieces into 1-inch wide strips.
9. When you have your base paper for your warp done and all your colored strips of paper--your weft--ready, you can weave!
10. start with your first strip. Go under the first strip, then over the next, over, and under all the way across.
11. For the next strip you start on the opposite side of the first strip. Go over, under, over under... The video will have a live example of this technique!
12. When you are finished, tape or glue your edges in place.
13. You can hang your weaving on the wall, use it as a base for a drawing or painting, or laminate it on both sides and use as a table mat or crafting mat!





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## Working with Fabric

### Supplies

- Scrap fabric
- Scissors
- Needle & Thread  
OR Tapestry Needle and Yarn  
OR Stapler  
OR Glue



### Create

1. First, pick which piece of fabric will be your background - your fabric furthest down when stacked, that will provide a good backing to sew, staple, or glue to.
2. Next, look at the other fabric scraps you have. What can you make out of your scraps? Inspired by our book, I made a piece with a sheep on it!
3. Cut out your fabric pieces and experiment with how you can lay them out.
4. Next, you will connect your pieces. You have several options:
  1. Needle and Thread - Thread the needle by putting the thread through the small hole at the top of the needle and pulling at least 6 inches of thread through. Do not tie a knot in the thread as it will make sewing harder. The hole is called the eye. Start sewing by placing two pieces of fabric together and pushing the needle with the thread in it through the fabric in one direction, then back down again. Leave a good amount of thread hanging out of your initial stitch so it does not pull free. You may tie a knot to secure the first stitch. When you finish sewing, tie a knot to secure by going under your last stitch, then pulling the needle through the loop created. See the video for further instruction.
  2. Tapestry Needle (thick needle) and Yarn - Sewing works the same as above, but sewing is bolder and will go faster.
  3. Stapler - Staple your fabric together along the edges of the smaller fabric pieces.
  4. Glue - Spread glue under the edge of the top fabric piece and press down onto the background fabric. Repeat with all pieces. Let dry fully.