GRASSHOPPER

🧶 Rainbow Threads: A Yarn Art Adventure

1 hour 19 minutes · Pre-K – 8th · After School · Teacher: Jaqi Junger

Instructions: This lesson plan is your starting point — feel free to edit, rearrange, or customize it to fit your teaching style and your students' needs! These notes are yours. They will not be published anywhere.

Topics Covered

Fiber arts · Color theory · Fine motor skills · Textile techniques · Creative expression · Pattern design

Lesson Plan

1. Circle Time & Yarn Introduction (8 min)

- Gather students in a circle and pass around different yarn textures (wool, acrylic, cotton) for tactile exploration
- Show the featured yarn technique for the day using a visual example and demonstrate the first steps
- Ask students to share their favorite color and explain they'll be choosing their own yarn palette today
- Review safety rules: no wrapping yarn around necks, keep scissors pointed down, respect neighbors' workspace

2. Skill Builder Mini-Lesson (12 min)

- Demonstrate the core technique step-by-step with large movements so all students can see clearly
- Have students practice the first motion in the air without materials (muscle memory building)
- Distribute yarn and base materials, walking students through the setup process one step at a time
- Circulate to each student, offering hands-on adjustment and encouragement as they begin

3. Independent Creation Time (35 min)

- Students work on their yarn art projects while teacher circulates to provide individual support

- Play background music and encourage students to experiment with color combinations and patterns
- Halfway through, pause for a 2-minute gallery walk where students can view peers' work-in-progress for inspiration
- Offer extension challenges for advanced students (more complex patterns, additional colors, mixed techniques)

4. Movement & Stretch Break (5 min)

- Lead the scheduled movement break activity to re-energize the group
- Include stretches for hands and fingers to prevent fatigue
- Transition back to tables with calm energy

5. Finishing & Detail Work (12 min)

- Guide students through completing their projects with proper finishing techniques (tying off, securing ends, trimming)
- Help students add final embellishments or details to personalize their work
- Assist with attaching name tags or backing as needed
- Early finishers can start a quick bonus activity or help classmates

6. Show & Tell Circle (7 min)

- Reconvene in a circle with finished projects, each student shares one thing they're proud of about their creation
- Celebrate unique approaches and creative problem-solving observed during the session
- Preview next week's project to build excitement
- Organize projects for take-home or safe storage until series end

Materials Checklist

☐ Yarn in 15–20 colors (acrylic medium weight, 3–4 skeins per color for the series)

☐ Child-safe scissors (one per student)

☐ Cardboard sheets or frames (various sizes, can be recycled cereal boxes)

☐ Plastic yarn needles with large eyes (one per student)

☐ Glue sticks or white glue (for anchoring yarn)

☐ Masking tape or painter's tape

☐ Paper plates or small bins for yarn organization at each table

☐ Ziploc bags labeled with student names for ongoing project storage

Age Adaptations

Younger Kids: Pre-K through 2nd grade: Use thicker yarn and larger needles, pre-cut yarn into manageable 12–18 inch pieces, provide cardboard templates with pre-punched holes, offer hand-over-hand assistance with initial threading, use simpler patterns with 2–3 colors maximum, allow more time for each step, incorporate more storytelling and imaginative play into the activity

Older Kids: 5th through 8th grade: Introduce more complex techniques like weaving patterns, color gradients, and dimensional effects, allow students to cut their own yarn lengths and design original patterns, teach proper yarn tension and professional finishing methods, offer opportunities for multi-week projects with increasing complexity, encourage artistic planning through sketching designs first, introduce textile art history and cultural weaving traditions

Movement Break

Yarn Tangle Dance - Students stand in a circle holding hands, then without letting go, tangle themselves up by stepping over and under arms while teacher counts to 20, then work together to untangle back to the original circle. This builds teamwork and gets everyone moving and laughing while reinforcing the interconnected nature of yarn arts.

Bonus Activities

- Create mini pom-poms by wrapping yarn around two fingers 30–40 times, sliding off, tying the center, and cutting the loops
- Practice finger knitting a simple chain bracelet using a single strand of yarn
- Design a yarn color palette on paper by wrapping small amounts of different colored yarns around an index card to plan future projects
- Make a collaborative class yarn mandala on a large piece of cardboard with radiating lines of tape for guided placement

Series Outline (13 Weeks)

Week	Theme	Key Activities
1	**Wrapped Rainbow Cardboard Art**	Learn to wrap yarn around cardboard shapes in organized patterns, Create geometric designs with 4–5 colors, Practice starting and ending yarn cleanly with tape and glue

Week	Theme	Key Activities
2	**God's Eye Weavings**	Construct traditional diamond weavings using crossed sticks, Master the over-under wrapping technique with color transitions, Create symmetrical patterns with 3–4 contrasting colors
3	**Yarn Painting on Cardboard**	Design an image or pattern sketch as a template, Fill in areas by gluing yarn in coils and lines to create texture, Explore monochromatic or rainbow color schemes
4	**Simple Cardboard Loom Weaving**	Create a notched cardboard loom and string the warp, Learn basic over-under weaving with a plastic needle, Weave a small wall hanging or bookmark with fringe
5	**Yarn-Wrapped Letters & Names**	Form initials or full names from cardboard letters, Wrap letters completely in yarn with neat, tight coils, Create a display piece or door hanger with finished letters
6	**Pom-Pom Creatures**	Make multiple pom-poms using cardboard templates or fingers, Trim and shape pom-poms into spheres, Assemble pom-poms into animals or characters with glue and felt details
7	**Dream Catchers & Hoops**	Wrap paper plates or embroidery hoops entirely in yarn, Create web patterns inside the hoop with strategic yarn placement, Add beads and feather decorations on hanging strands
8	**Finger Knitting Chains**	Learn the finger knitting technique to create long chains, Make bracelets, necklaces, or headbands from knitted chains, Connect multiple chains or coil them into spirals for decorative pieces
9	**Yarn Mandalas**	Arrange radial spoke patterns on circular cardboard, Weave concentric circles of color from center outward, Create symmetrical designs inspired by traditional mandala art
10	**Textured Landscapes**	Draw simple landscape scenes on cardboard (sun, hills, sky, ground), Fill each area with yarn in different textures and wrapping styles, Layer yarn to create dimension and visual interest
11	**Collaborative Class Tapestry**	Each student weaves a 4×4 inch square on individual looms, Practice advanced techniques: color blending, pattern variation, tight edges, Plan for assembly of all squares into one class artwork next week

Week	Theme	Key Activities
12	**Tapestry Assembly & Yarn Jewelry**	Work together to stitch or glue individual squares into the class tapestry, Create wrapped yarn bangles or braided friendship bracelets as personal projects, Discuss the collaborative art piece and what makes it special
13	**Choice Project & Celebration**	Students select their favorite technique from the series to create a final masterpiece, Set up a gallery walk to display all 13 weeks of creations, Reflect on skills learned and host a mini art show for parents if possible



This lesson plan was drafted by Hopper, the Grasshopper Kids AI assistant. Want different results? You can generate another plan, or text us with feedback so we can make the tool better. We built this to help save you time bringing more enrichment ideas to life!

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