

## History Inspired Crafts: Textile Traditions

Kentucky is known for hand crafts like weaving. In 1922, David Churchill and his wife Eleanor, started a hand weaving company in Berea, Kentucky. It was called Churchill Weavers and it became known nationally and internationally for quality handwoven goods, like the cape shown here. The company was in business for 85 years and made everything from baby blankets, throws and ladies accessories to experimental cloth for NASA spacesuits.

**Suggested Activity:** Paper Plate Weaving

### You Will Need:

- Sturdy paper plate
- Yarn
- Pencil or pen
- Scissors
- Ruler



Step 1: Mark the center of the paper plate with the ruler and then draw 8 equally spaced lines around the plate, creating a total of 16 wedges. Label each line with the numbers 1 to 16. Make a cut from the rim of the plate to the beginning of every line.



Step 2: The loom's warp (base threads) look like a wheel and spoke pattern. Start the warp from the back of the plate with line 1, then loop over the front of the plate to line 9. Loop the yarn around the back to line 10 and create another spoke along the front to line 2. Continue making spokes until all the lines have yarn and line 9 has 2 lines. Tie off the warp yarn in the middle of the plate.



Step 3: Tie off the end of the warp on the back of the plate.



Step 4: Tie a second long piece of yarn onto the middle of the plate. Create weaving by moving the yarn over and under each of the spokes. Treat each piece of yarn on spoke 9 separately to make sure the weaving stays even. Tip: Add tape to the end of the yarn to create a temporary weaving needle and cut off when done.



Step 5: When the yarn ends, tie another piece of yarn onto the end and continue weaving.

Step 6: When the weaving is complete, tie the weaving yarn onto one of the spokes, cut the spokes off of the paper plate, and tie each of the spoke strings together in pairs. Enjoy your finished product!

**Alternate Activities:**

Sample a variety of Kentucky textile traditions – card wool, spin thread, piece a quilt block, learn to crochet, or weave on a cardboard loom.

Notes: Craft photos taken by Julie Sawnor KHS; artifact from KHS collections.