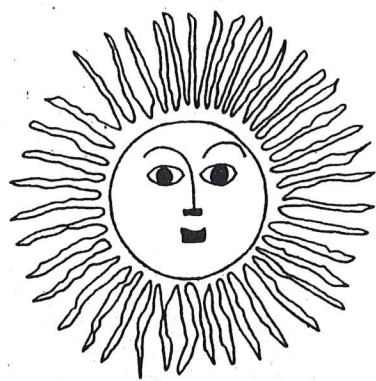


ARGENTINE LEATHERWORK

Because of the abundance of fine grazing land, known as the Pampa, the cattle industry is the foundation of the Argentine economy. The high-quality beef has made Argentina the greatest exporter of meat in the world.

A natural by-product of the beef industry is the leather industry. During or after a classroom study on Argentina, your students might enjoy making these simple and inexpensive leather craft items.

The two motifs shown here are the Argentine coat of arms and a stylized Argentine sun. If desired, they may be embossed on the leather.

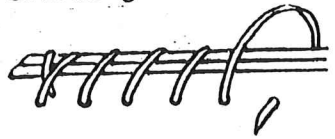


Different Ways of Thonging

1. Figure 1 shows how variations can be introduced to make thonging not only a useful technique for joining two pieces of leather, but also a decorative effect. The most widely used method is the simple overcasting method. However, as you gain experience and master early problems, you will want to be more adventurous.

Figure 1—Thonging Techniques for Joining and Decoration

a) Overcasting



b) Overcasting with two colors



c) Couching



d) Two ways of doing criss-cross thonging



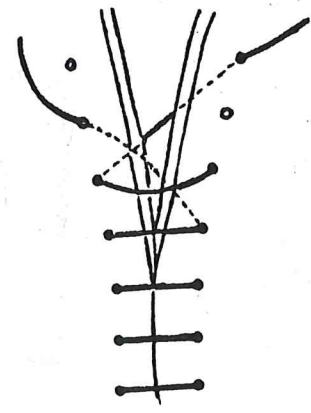
e) Running stitch



f) Blanket stitch



g) Lacing two pieces of leather together



LEVEL: HIGH SCHOOL
 Source: Contreras, Gloria, Latin American Cultural Studies: *Information and Materials For Teaching Latin America*, 2nd Revised Edition, Institute of Latin American Studies, The University of Texas at Austin.

Figure 2—Child's Comb Case

Cut two pieces, each 5" by 1 1/2" and shape top end as shown. Stitch or thong both together. Thong or stitch round curved edge at top, to give neat appearance.

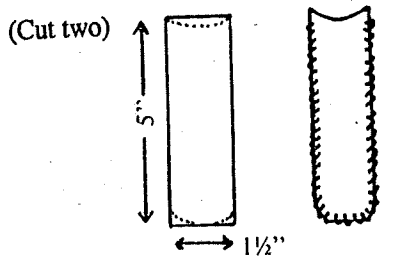


Figure 4—Child's Purse (unlined)

Cut one piece, 8" by 3". Trim one end to form flap and fold piece, as shown in diagram. Fit press stud as indicated, thong sides together and thong flap to complete.

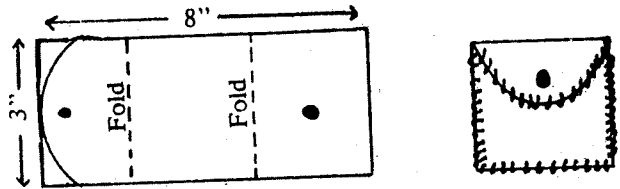
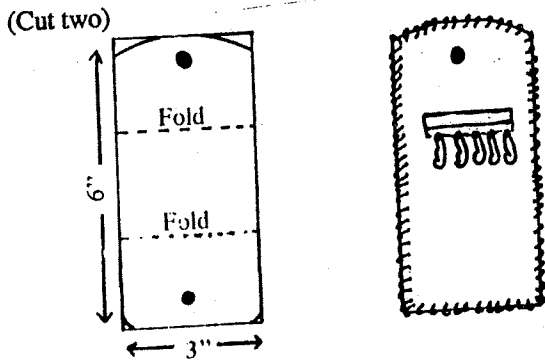


Figure 3—Key Case

Cut two pieces of leather, each 6" by 3" (one to be used as back and one as lining of case). Fit lower part of press-stud to front of case, as shown in diagram. Use rivets to attach key-ring fitting to center area of lining. Thong round edges and fit upper part of press stud to flap.

It is a good idea never to discard leather scraps. Even the smallest ones may be useful for stick-on or sew-on appliqué, when you are making a toy animal or some article in scrap work. And it is worth knowing that you can often buy a bundle of larger scraps from a leather merchant. These are sold by weight and priced according to quality.



Embossing

The simplest procedure for embossing leather items would be to obtain a beginner's leather craft kit, which is available at most craft stores. The kit contains simple, easy-to-follow instructions and the most basic tools needed for embossing.

(Diagrams for the child's purse, child's comb case, key case, and thonging techniques for joining and decoration were reprinted with permission from *Leatherwork: A Step by Step Guide*, by Mary Manning and E. A. Manning [Feltham, Middlesex, England: Hamlin Group, Astronaut House, Hounslow Road TW1134AZ].)

BEAN AND SEED MOSAIC AND YARN COLLAGE

These two craft suggestions may easily be incorporated into your Latin American studies program. Flowers, animals, motifs, countries, flags, etc., may be illustrated and displayed.

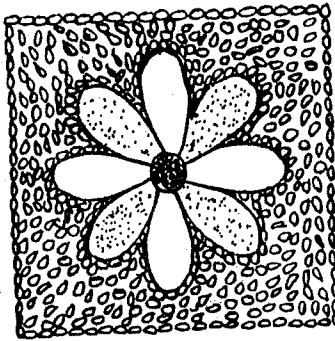
Bean and Seed Mosaic

Materials:

Heavy cardboard for mount
Dried beans, peas, corn, rice, sand, crushed eggshells, coffee grounds, etc.

Directions:

Draw picture or design on heavy cardboard. It could be an Aztec design, the Mexican flag, etc. Glue beans and seeds around and within outlines, arranging to form designs over the entire surface of cardboard.



Yarn Collage

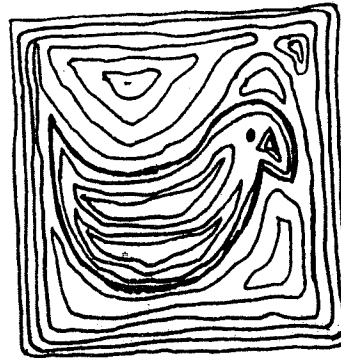
Materials:

Construction paper or manila tag paper
Variety of colored yarn
White liquid glue

Directions:

Spread a handful of yarn pieces on table and let shapes and colors suggest design arrangement for collage. Experiment by placing designs on construction paper, arranging light pastel designs on dark paper, darker designs on light paper. Glue completed design in place and embellish with fluffed-up bits of yarn.

Use simple geometric designs with younger pupils.
If yarn is not available, children may draw colored lines within the outline of an object to give the effect of yarn.



(From the "Arts and Crafts" section of *Information and Materials to Teach the Cultural Heritage of the Mexican American Child* [Austin, TX: Region XIII Education Service Center, Dissemination and Assessment Center for Bilingual Education, 1976].)

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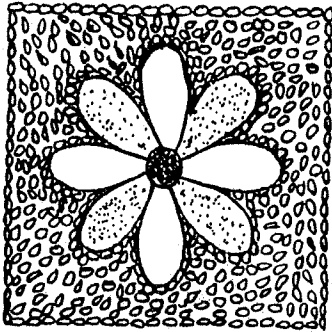
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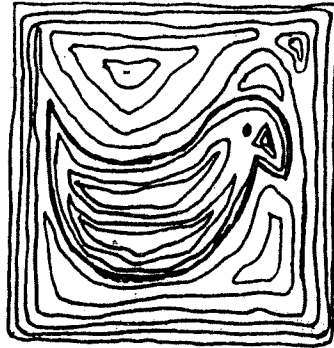
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