

HAND-STITCHED ART

Hand Stitched Art is a fun and creative way to introduce children to a very practical skill! Choose a few simple stitches to focus on and then let your students' imagination run wild! This is also a great opportunity to integrate a little history into your art class or a little art into your history class.

Artifacts discovered from archaeological digs have shown us that the use of stitching as decoration goes as far back as our Cro-Magnon ancestors 30,000 years ago; however, the earliest surviving piece of embroidery known is from China's around 481/403 BCE - 221 BCE, an embroidered silk garment made with freehand techniques that are still in use today. While most embroidered pieces in the ancient world were clothing items, there is evidence that embroidery as pure art was practiced as far back as the Iron Age, or 1300BCE – 600BCE.

MATERIALS

- Burlap
- Plastic Needle
- Embroidery thread or yarn
- Scissors
- Sharpie
- Embroidery Hoop
- Scrap paper
- Pencils

DIRECTIONS

1. Place your embroidery hoop on top of your burlap. Cut a square about 2-3 inches larger than the embroidery hoop, then secure the burlap into the hoop. Depending on the size of the class and time allotted, this step can be done before class.
2. Teachers: Model a few different stitches with your students. Click the links to the diagrams found within the blog post. They can practice them on their hoops with you and then students can remove any unwanted stitches. Next model how to fill in shapes with the different stitches.
3. Plan your design. With a scrap piece of paper and using a pencil draw what you want to create. When you're satisfied with your design, draw it directly on to your burlap in the hoop with a sharpie. Take your time, Sharpie marks can't be undone!
4. Once your design is on your burlap, start filling in the design with stitches.
5. To display, just hang the hoop as you would a frame. You can also take the piece out of the hoop and place in a frame or shadow box.

