



Give HESSIAN a Make-Over

The first article, suggesting a variety of uses for Hessian, of a proposed series designed to assist teachers in the implementation of the visual arts curriculum

Curriculum Strand: Fabric and Fibre

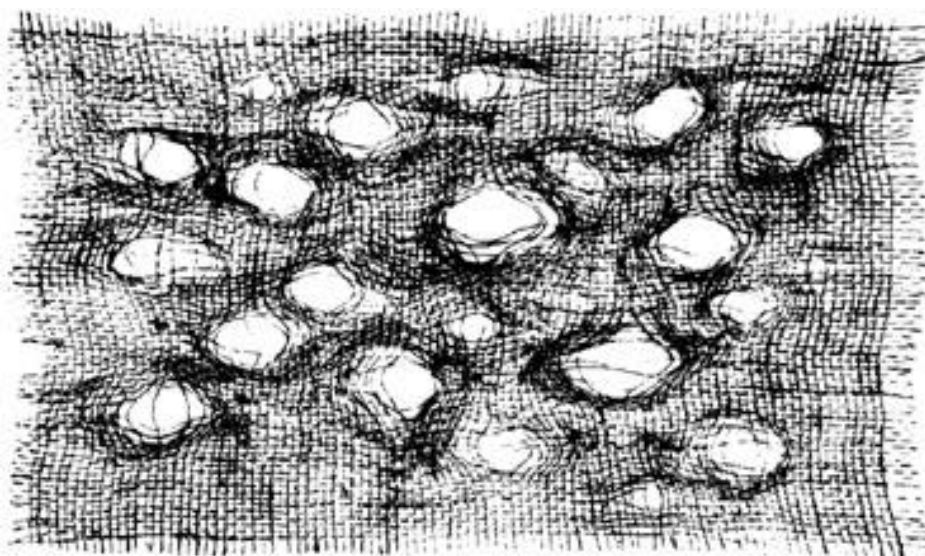
These activities involving exploring and working with hessian fabric may be used with all classes and offer endless possibilities for the children to engage in personal, creative and imaginative work by changing the surface of the hessian in a variety of different ways.

Curriculum Objectives

- | Explore and experiment with fabric and fibre.
- | Make a small inventive piece in fabric and fibre.

Step 1: Discussion (Stimulus)

- | What does the word 'fabric' bring to mind?
- | Where do we find it? What do we use it for? Do you have other names for 'fabric'?
- | Show some hessian. Where have you seen fabric like this before?
- | What does the hessian feel like? Smell



Make holes in hessian fabric with your fingers.
Make a pattern in a piece of hessian by making holes.

like? Look like? How is it made?

Stimulus
↑
Activity
↑
Evaluation
KEY MESSAGE

Step 2: Explore and Experiment (Activity 1)

What can you do with your piece of hessian?

- | Scrunch it?
- | Fold it into various shapes?
- | Roll it?
- | Twist it?
- | Make a concertina fold?
- | Make a bow by pinching it in the middle?
- | Fold it into fan shape?
- | Make other interesting shapes?

Discover lots of new ideas

Can you design a costume using pieces of hessian? Try adding found objects such as



Deconstruct pieces of hessian. Fray the edges of hessian. Pull threads from the centre. Pull threads from the centre of a piece of hessian. to create patterns and/or pictures. What can you see?

Extra Ideas

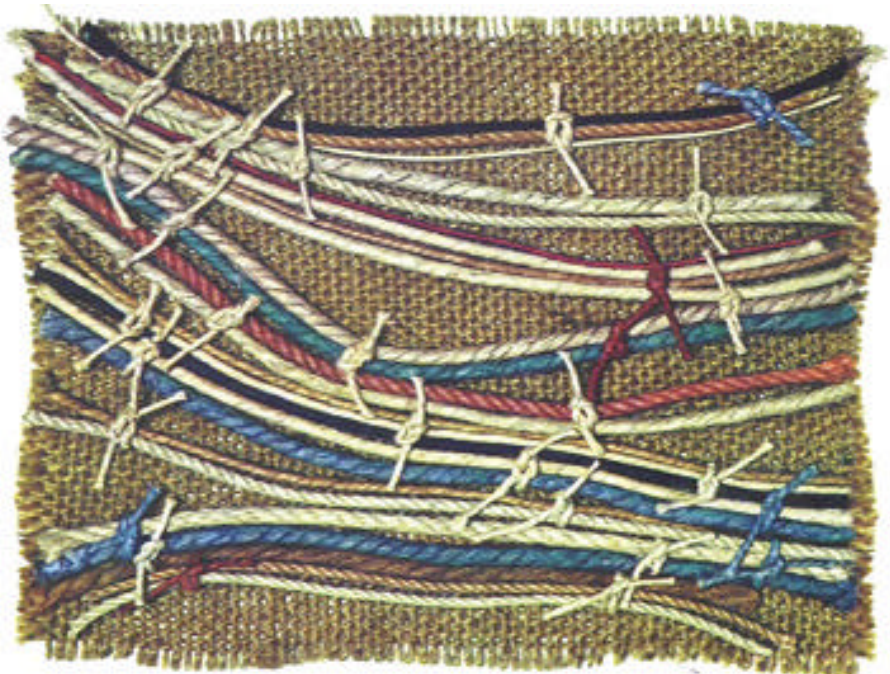
- | Attach decorated pieces of hessian to the sides of shopping bags to create individual items.
- | Fray and decorate pieces of hessian to create table linen.
- | Work in co-operative groups on large pieces of hessian to create banners and wall hangings.

feathers to make a hat

Step 3: Change the Surface of Hessian (Activity 2)

Children may choose one or more of these suggested options for decorating their piece of hessian, according to their age and ability.

- | COLOUR the hessian using chalks, paints, crayons, dyes, pastels, inks, etc.
- | WEAVE in items such as ribbon, plaits, braid, wool, fabric scraps, cord etc.
- | TIE on items like ribbons, bows, tassels, lengths of wool, braid etc.
- | STICK on items such as buttons, beads, wool wraps, plaits, bows.
- | MAKE plaits, pom-poms, fabric wraps, tassels and attach then to the hessian
- | STITCH an original pattern, picture or design on a piece of hessian.



Have fun
↑
Be creative
↑
Try out lots of different things

KEY MESSAGE

Step 4: Talk about what you have done (Evaluation)

- | Show your work to others in your class. Put your work on display.
- | Keep some samples of your work in your portfolio. Write about your work.

n Compiled by members of the Primary Curriculum Support Programme (Visual Arts). Michael O Reily, Gemma McGirr, Judy Costello, Una Kelly. For more ideas visit www.pcsp.ie

