Garden Loom Lesson Plan

Lincoln Elementary School Clare Seguin

**Stage One- Desired Outcomes**

Established Goals:

Art:

Through weaving on the garden loom, students will gain experience with using a variety of fibers, both natural and synthetic, to create patterns and designs using simple weaving techniques. They will have opportunities to obtain materials directly from the garden to incorporate into the weaving and to explore use of natural dyes with natural fibers.

Science:

Students will use microscopes to observe and draw various fibers, and discuss the many ways humans use fibers to produce fabrics and other materials, including art pieces. Connections will be made to the structure and function of various woven materials and how they are designed and tested by materials scientists/engineers.

Social/Emotional Goals:

The loom will provide students with a calming, creative place to choose to spend time during classes and recesses- adding to our many engaging ‘Outdoor Classroom’ spaces and options.

Understandings:

Through working with this Garden Loom, students will understand that resources for creative expression are all around them, and can even be deliberately grown in a garden. They will gain a basic facility with the process of weaving, designing patterns and using color. They will observe the existence of fibers in many of the common materials around them and that they use regularly, such as clothing and paper.

Essential Questions:

What is a fiber? How can natural fibers be used in creating functional and/or aesthetically compelling objects? How have people throughout history and in different cultures used weaving to improve their lives? What are various materials composed of and what makes some materials easier to weave with than others? How can I combine colors and textures to create an interesting pattern?

Students will know and be able to do:

Use various fibers to weave on the Garden Loom. Recognize the existence of fibers in many everyday materials and appreciate the many ways in which fibers are used in design, construction, and fabrication. Create colorful, interesting patterns on the loom with a wide variety of materials.

**Stage Two- Assessment Evidence**

Performance Tasks

Students will observe through microscopes and draw fibers from plant, animal, and synthetic sources. Students will weave using various fibers on the Garden Loom.

**Stage Three- Learning Plan**

Learning Activities:

The Garden Loom is intended to be an on-going, accessible, multi-use piece of art equipment. It has been used so far to connect to ideas in science, using microscopes to examine fibers in and around the garden, and then to use those fibers to weave on the loom. We also used microscopes to explore the different fabrics we wear, and to determine which of those are woven and which are knit. As the garden plants die and dry out in fall, we are starting to incorporate some of those into our weaving.

We also plan to use the loom to teach about:

-Growing specific plants for fiber, and learning how to make those fibers into yarn.

-Growing plants that can be used as natural dyes and using them to dye yarn.

-Creating a place where students and neighbors could come to work together to create a community weaving.