

Activity for K-6 Students: Paper Lace Workshop

AIM

To introduce the concept of lace as a 'decorative openwork fabric in which the pattern of spaces is as important as the solid areas'

BACKGROUND

Explain to students how only rich people wore lace in the past. It was so beautiful and so expensive that it made people feel really important when they wore it. Both men and women wore lace.



(Above) Portrait of Elizabeth I (1533 - 1603) The Armada Portrait 1600c. George Gower, Manner of c.1540 – 1596
(Below) Sir Walter Raleigh, French School, (16th century) / Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna, Austria / The Bridgeman Art Library



Ask students to suggest some examples of lace they have seen. Discuss with students what they think makes lace so beautiful. Explain to them that it is probably not the colour as most lace is white

or monochromatic. Suggest that it might be the pattern of the holes. Note that real lace takes a lot of time to make with needles and thread or with bobbins on a pillow.

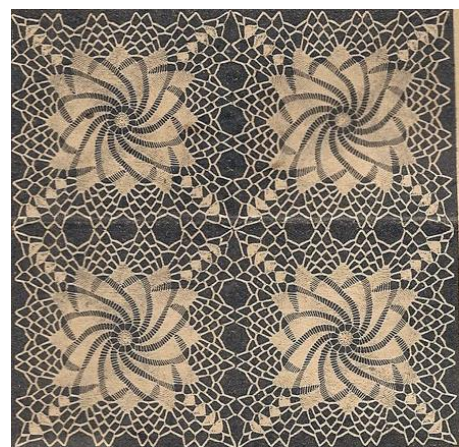
The following simple activity allows students to make lace out of paper.

Instructions

Students will need paper, scissors and a square doley pattern (see overleaf). Variations on this simple doley can be made using a round or fan shaped pattern.

1. Fold pattern along lines until you have a triangle.
2. Cut several designs or shapes out of the triangle.
3. Unfold to see your finished lace.

Notes: Young children may require some assistance to cur through all the folded layers. All young children should be carefully supervised when using scissors.



Cotton Crocheted lace doley

Fold along the dotted lines to create a small triangle the size of the grey segment.

