**My Hair – Art Activity**

This lesson picks up the idea of plaiting and weaving from the book and looks at the textiles of Anni Albers. Anni was born in Berlin in 1899 and came from a Jewish family. She was interested in art from a young age.



**You will need**

The associated powerPoint

4 different colours of thread (64cm of each)

Scissors

An A4 piece of card for each child

Safety pins

Sellotape

Recap all the different hairstyles in the book My Hair, focussing on the plaiting and weaving of the hair. Point out any children in the class who have plaited hair. Tell the children that today they are going to learn to weave, but first they are going to learn about someone who was an expert.

**Slide 1**

Say: This lady is Anni Albers. She was born in Germany over 100 years ago and came from a Jewish family. She was interested in art from a young age.

At the time, women were only allowed to study a few subjects in school. Anni decided to study weaving and fought hard to be allowed to go to classes that used to only include men. She became one of the greatest textile artists of our time. She believed that textiles (or material) are a type of art and as important as painting or sculpture! How does it make you feel that women weren't allowed to the study the same things as men many years ago?

**Slide 2**

Anni Albers was interested in old methods of weaving. She used looms to make many of her textile designs. A loom is a piece of equipment used to make fabrics. It weaves threads over and under other threads to create the textile. People have used looms for a long time. There are different kinds and shapes of looms and Albers usually used a large one to hand-weave her fabrics. Here she is looking through a loom! Can you spot the thread?

**Slide 3**

This piece of art is called Dotted*, can you guess why?*

Anni used lots of different coloured threads. Pink, black, dark green and beige. The colours and patterns in her work can remind us of many different things. For example, colours used in Dotted can look like a tree in autumn. Can you choose three colours which remind you of summer?

Anni thought that people had forgotten about their sense of touch. Today, a lot of objects are made by machines. This means that we don’t have to use our hands as much as we used to. She liked to make artworks that make us want to feel them.

**Slide 4**

Look at artwork TR III. Some of the triangles are raised. Others are flat on the surface of the fabric. Don't they look like little mountains? How about lots of small pyramids?

Look around you. Can you see any interesting patterns or shapes?

**Slide 5**

**Making a friendship bracelet.**

Tell the children that you can make the bracelet by tying lots of small knots. This creates a pattern and is a type of weaving.

#### 1. Select 4 colours of thread



#### 2. Cut 64cm of each colour



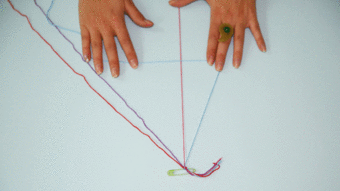
#### 3. Tie the 4 pieces of thread together in a knot at one end



#### 4. Stick the knot to a flat surface or use a safety pin



#### 5. Spread out the 4 threads



#### 6. Place the 1st thread over the top of the 2nd thread to make a loop



#### 7. Gently pull the 1st thread through the loop. This creates a knot at the top of the 2nd thread



#### 8. Repeat steps 6 & 7. You should now have 2 knots at the top of the 2nd thread



#### 9. Repeat this, tying 2 knots at the top of the 3rd and 4th thread. Keep going until there are 2 knots on every thread



#### 10. Repeat the double knot technique using the far-left thread. This will be a new colour. move from left to right until the thread is in the far-right position



#### 11. Continue until the bracelet is long enough for your wrist



#### 12. Tie a knot at the end of the bracelet and cut off the extra string



#### 13. All done and ready to give to a friend!

