

UKRAINIAN HISTORY AND
EDUCATION CENTER

WEAVING KILIM WORKSHOP

CRAFTS FOR KIDS @ UHEC

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021



Ukrainian History & Education Center

135 Davidson Avenue

Somerset, NJ 08873

info@ukrhec.org

732-356-0132

www.ukrhec.org



UHEC folk art programming is made possible by funds from the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

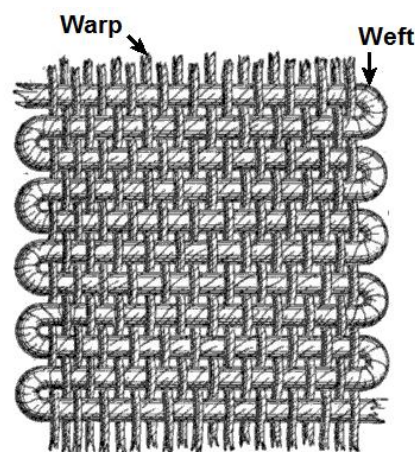


Weaving (Kilim) Workshop

Ukrainian kilims are flat, woven tapestries that were used to adorn walls of homes or churches throughout Ukraine and the diaspora. The earliest references to kilims date back to the chronicles of Kyivan Rus' and link them to burial rites. The princes used kilims also as chair covers.

Kilim making is a complex and labor-intensive process that includes yarn spinning, dyeing, and weaving. Traditionally, the necessary skills were passed on from generation to generation. Originally, the basic material was sheep's wool. Later on cotton and flax yarns were introduced, and in recent times synthetic fibers that are resistant to rot, mold, and moths have been adopted. Until the second half of the 19th century only natural dyes, mostly from local plants, were used. Today, synthetic dyes have replaced the traditional natural dyes.

Kilims were woven on either a vertical or horizontal loom. Patterns were produced by the interlocked tapestry weave. A shuttle, or similar device, carried colored thread/yarn (called a weft) back and forth over the loom. The loom was prepared with a stationary thread/yarn, called a warp. The weft used an over-under technique through the warp to create a design or pattern.



In this workshop, young artists will learn about weaving techniques, make their own cardboard loom, and then create their own mini woven tapestry called a *kilim*.

Crafts for Kids with the UHEC

Sunday afternoon workshops will provide a hands-on opportunity for kids to learn about Ukrainian art, culture and history based on objects found in the UHEC Museum Collection. Participants will go home with a craft at the end of the workshop. Suitable for grade school aged children.

Supply List for Workshop

- Cardboard (I used a shipping box)
 - precut to any size (I cut mine to 6x7)
 - 2-1" strips for the top and bottom of the cardboard loom
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Glue
- 4 Binder Clips
- Yarn (various colors)
- Embroidery Thread (for the warp of the loom)
- Plastic yarn darning for kids (optional)
- Tape

