

Activity Name
“The Raven and the Loon”

suggested age group: 5-6, 7-8

type of activity:

art

world cultures

reading/writing

science

mathematics

practical life

P.E. & health

social skills

play

materials needed per child:

black burlap, cut into squares with black masking tape borders
blunt embroidery needle with large eye
white embroidery floss or pearl cotton
scissors

setting the stage / picture book:

read The Raven and the Loon by Rachel and Sean Qitsualik-Tinsley

activity plan:

explain that loons visit TON as a stop on their migration

hike out to the Bird ID station on the trail to Rocky Ledges

look at loon picture and read migration information

give each child a square (about 6 inches) of black burlap, a needle, and a portion of white cotton and let them embroider careful designs of white lines on the black fabric

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follow up / notes:

this is also a good indoor rainy day activity (minus the hike)

you could do the story and sewing on one day, and stop and look at the loon picture on your way to RL on a different day

although sewing outside is lovely and meditative, some children will be more likely to drop their needles than others and some needles may get lost if you sew outside

some children will sew for longer than others, so have a plan for early finishers

children may need help tying knots

show the children how to cut a suitable length of cotton (about the distance from their shoulder to their fingertip)

the masking tape borders on the burlap are optional but do greatly help with fraying; using black tape is more discreet

write the children's initials on the black tape using silver Sharpie

have a piece of white chalk available to draw designs on the black burlap for children who are embroidering a specific picture (such as a heart or a star)