

FELT MAKING GUIDELINES

IDEAS TO EXPLORE:

- Discover the basic properties of fibers which allow the felt to take place.
- Learn terms: fulling, felting, hardening, scales, batts, carding, fiber, wool, hair, etc., as related to felt making.
- Explore what happens when different fibers are used in the felting process.
- Explore the relation between fiber length and felting.
- Learn techniques for making flat pieces of felt of various sizes.
- Learn techniques for making multidimensional solid shapes.
- Experiment with basic fiber carding techniques.
- Develop skills to evaluate the relative merits of various fibers in relation to the designated use of the felt being made.
- Explore historical and traditional uses of felt
- Find out how felt is used in modern society
- Expand the felt making frontiers into large scale sculptures and fiber murals
- Explore how surface embellishments can enhance a felted garment or other project.
- Learn basic techniques for joining felt pieces together related to how the item will be used.

PROJECT SUGGESTIONS:

Some of the types of items which can be made out of felt include: balls, Christmas ornaments, cat toys, dolls, stuffed animals, pouches, containers, vessels, pot holders, hot pads, coasters, jewelry, vests, jackets, capes, coats, boots, slippers, boot liners, hats, mitten, blankets, horse blankets, rugs, hearth rug for a fire place, welcome mats, wall hangings, murals, sculptures, etc.

Projects for various age and skill levels are suggested in the following breakdown. Age divisions as well as skill divisions are included in the suggested projects. This is to allow for greater flexibility when starting out a new program so older 4-Hers can also find a way to be challenged by felt making. Some of the early skills are suggested for older beginners because they require more physical strength and a longer attention span.

BEGINNER:

Age 9-11

- Felt balls for games, or ornamentation
- Creating pictures on a flat piece of felt
- Pot holders and hot pads

Age 12-14

- Felt vessels of various shapes
- Designing flat felt pieces for mittens or other small garments or toys
Pouches

Age 15-19

- Making and designing a personal felt hat
- Flat felt for a vest or jacket
- Blankets or wall hangings

INTERMEDIATE:

Age 9-11

- Felt vessels of various shapes
- Designing flat felt pieces for mittens or other small garments or toys
- Pouches

Age 12-14

- Making and designing a personal felt hat
- Flat felt for a vest or jacket
- Blankets or wall hangings

Age 15-19

- Document why a particular fiber was chosen for the project
- Making an item which incorporates surface designs in the felt and embellishments on the felt
- Making one or more projects which show at least two different felting techniques

ADVANCED:

Age 12-14

- Document why a particular fiber was chosen for the project
- Make an item which incorporates surface designs in the felt and embellishments on the felt.
- Making one or more projects which shows at least two different felting techniques.

Age 15-19

- Research a felting technique through the ages and show examples of projects made using the researched technique.
- Start with fibers directly from the animal and go through all the steps necessary to create a finished felted item. Use photo documentation with descriptive captions to show all the steps. This should be included with the final project.
- Create a felted mural or sculpture using multiple types of fibers.
- Experiment with new ways of making felt and create photo documentation of the experiments as well as the finished project.
- Explore original uses for felt and create a display documenting multiple uses.
- Project must take at least 6 hours for completion and must be able to explain technique.