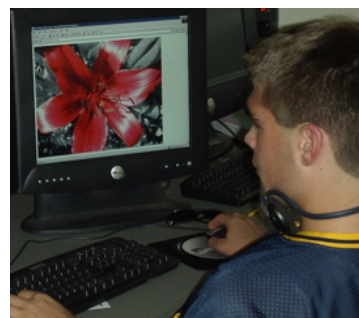


INTERNET RESEARCH:

History, Science, and Technology



While weaving mats from plant materials, you may have wondered:

- what plant materials other cultures use to make mats?
- what additional plant materials are available to you?
- what tools others use and whether you need different tools for different materials /products?
- how mats are made in factories?
- how people have used mats in the past?
- what modern materials have replaced plant materials in mats?

Online research is a great way to gather information and begin to answer those questions. For example, you could research the use of “mats” as protective armor. Thomas Harriot wrote in 1590 about the use of dogbane or Indian Hemp by Native Americans living in the Virginia area, “they defended themselves with some armours made of stickes wickered together with thread.” A 1634 account of a journey into Oneida and Mohawk country notes that, “Some of them [Mohawks] wore armor made of thin reeds and strings.” Today, police officers and military personnel have a similar need for body armor. They wear protective vests made from Kevlar. Use the keywords below to research this and other interesting topics related to weaving mats. Also, search online museum collections for examples of woven mats.

Keywords Related to Mat Weaving

PLANTS	TECHNOLOGY	TEXTILES (Mat-like)
Cat Tails, <i>Typha latifolia</i>	Bobbin	Aramid fibers
Dogbane, <i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i> L.	Loom	Bulletproof vests
Goldenrod, <i>Solidago species</i>	Plain weave	Door flap
Indian Hemp, <i>Apocynum cannabinum</i> L.	Shuttle	Doormats
Milkweed, <i>Asclepias species</i>	Warp	Floor coverings
Ornamental grasses <i>Miscanthus and other species</i>	Weaving	Kevlar
Willow, <i>Salix species</i>	Weft	Mats
	Woven	Protective armor
	Yarn	Roofing materials
		Sheetrock
		Tablemats
		Wall hangings (decorative)
		Wall building materials
		Wigwam

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3. Buchanan, Rita and Eric Buchanan. A Weaver's Garden, Dover Publications. 1999.
4. Erichsen-Brown, Charlotte. Medicinal and Other Uses of North American Plants: A Historical Survey with Special Ref Publications, Inc., NY. 1989.
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