

Activity 2 Handouts

If following lesson plan exactly, teacher should print **1 copy for each student, double sided**

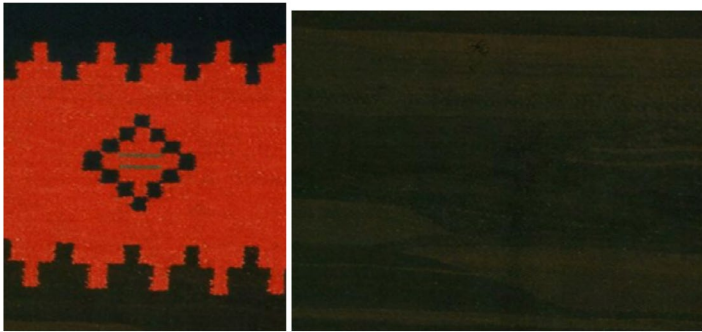
Weaving Summary Sheet

Asdzáá bi béédléé (woman's manta)

Diné artist

1850s–60s

Dyed and undyed wool, twill weave with interlocking tapestry weave
Division of Anthropology, American Museum of Natural History, New York, Collected by Erastus T. Tefft, ca. 1910, 50.1 / 2012



Summary

“This Diné woman’s wearing manta was crafted during the myriad of catastrophic events in the mid-nineteenth century that include the targeting of Diné weavers for slavery, Kit Carson’s scorched earth campaign, and the forced march to Bosque Redondo—all heinous crimes against my people. The checkered diamonds suggest that it may have been woven by a weaver who escaped slavery and hid among other southwest tribal people or with her family. Whatever the circumstances, the weaver wove a beautiful manta, an art of resistance.” –Lynda Teller Pete (Diné), textile artist

Key Terms

Manta (called *biil* by the Diné) is a wearable shawl usually with a black center with red designs along the edges. These designs can range between **stripes**, **triangles**, or **zigzags**.

Cochineal is a tiny, cactus-dwelling insect that produces a vibrant red pigment that is used to dye wool.

Mexican serape (blanket)

Unidentified artist

ca. 1850

Cotton and wool, dyed and undyed, weft-faced tapestry weave
Division of Anthropology, American Museum of Natural History, New York, Collected by H. C. Bumpus, ca. 1910, 65 / 3365



Summary

Serapes are a combination of Native and Spanish elements and techniques. Unlike Navajo and Pueblo textiles, serapes were woven in two separate panels that were sewn together with their patterns perfectly matching, a demonstration of the weavers’ skills. The blue color comes from **indigo**, brown comes from **brazilwood**, black comes from **logwood**. The circular pattern on many serapes may have been influenced by Chinese & Indian fabrics coming to Mexico, which then influenced the Diné **eye-dazzler** style.

Key terms

Serapes are weavings which have been made in northern Mexico for several centuries.

Indigo is a natural plant which creates a dark blue dye.

Germantown blanket (eye-dazzler)

Diné artist
ca. 1900

Wool yarn, cotton warp, and cotton string, tapestry weave
Division of Anthropology, American Museum of Natural History,
New York, Collected by Uriah S. Hollister, ca. 1911, 50.1 / 4400



Summary

“In the 1860s the Diné (Navajo) were forced by the United States Army to migrate from their homeland in what is now the Four Corners region to Bosque Redondo, a government-sanctioned reservation in eastern New Mexico. . . . The adoption of external supplies and the subsequent development of innovative weaving styles corresponded to a wider shift among the Navajo from local subsistence manufacture and intertribal trade to a Euro-American, tourist-oriented market that was drawn to brilliant colors and bold patterns.” –Juliana Fagua Arias, MA (Bard Graduate Center)

Key Terms

Composition is the way in which different elements of an artwork are combined or arranged.

Concentric means having the same center axis.

Geometric means the use of one or several geometric shapes.

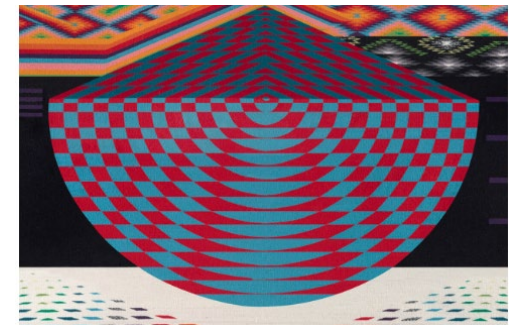
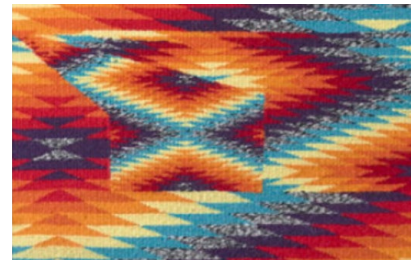
Terraces are a level area or platform, often slightly raised and of varying dimensions and materials.

Multihued means different colors.

World Traveler

Melissa Cody (Diné)
2014

Wool warp, weft, selvedge cords, and aniline dyes
Stark Museum of Art, Orange, Texas, courtesy the artist and
Garth Greenan Gallery, New York



Summary

This is an example of Melissa Cody's (Diné, b. 1983) Germantown Revival style. Cody, a fourth-generation weaver, combines historical Germantown designs with patterns and images, inspired by street art and popular culture, that are important for her today. Some are older designs that have a long history, like the **whirling log** (top left), while others come from new art styles like **Op Art**, such as this checkered half-circle that seems to stretch back into the picture (right).

Her inventive weavings are popular with a younger generation of Diné weavers, showing that traditional art forms can still reflect Navajo life today.

Key Terms

Whirling Log is a historical Navajo design element

Op Art is an art style that uses optical illusions.

Drawing + Writing Activity

Draw a detail from two of the different weavings. It doesn't have to be perfect or the whole weaving, just choose a detail that you think is interesting!



Short writing/reflection (a few sentences):

Why did you choose these two details?

What is similar or different about the details from these two different weavings?