



REEEC

Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center
University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign

Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum

Carpet Making (Turkmenistan)

5 minutes prep, 30 minutes class time

This lesson is designed to introduce students to Turkmenistan and the traditions of carpet weaving there. Students will learn facts about Turkmenistan and carpet weaving, then will make their own carpet using construction paper and string.

Required Materials:

1. Construction paper
2. String

Preparation: Place a sheet of construction paper that has holes on the side of it at each student's seat for them to use as the background. Then place pre-cut pieces of string and construction paper at each student's seat for them to use as the decorations on the carpet.



Lesson:

1. Begin by asking the children what country we live in, and then help them locate that country on a map or globe. Then show them where Turkmenistan is on a map/globe. (5 mins)
2. Use the PowerPoint presentation to take the children on a tour of Turkmenistan. This presentation is an introduction to Turkmenistan and the Turkmen tradition of carpet making. (5 mins)
 - a. First half of the PowerPoint highlights the landscape, cities, and culture of Turkmenistan.
 - b. Second half of the PowerPoint focuses on the tradition of Turkmen carpet making and examples of the craft. Emphasis the difficulty of using patterns and textiles to make colorful carpets and how the children can use any colors or patterns they want when they make theirs.
3. Explain and execute the craft (20 mins)
 - a. First, they will take a piece of string and pull it through one of the holes on the end of the construction paper. Then they will tie it together and repeat this with all the holes on both ends of the construction paper.
 - b. Second, they will take the pieces of construction paper and tape or glue them onto the construction paper in any pattern that they want. They can also color the carpet with markers or crayons.