A wall hanging is a decorative object, often made of fabric, which is hung on a wall. It is similar to a picture and should be created through the use of design principles. Wall hangings can be made by anyone who has an idea to express and share with others. Different ways to create wall hangings include embroidering, appliqueing, batiking, printing, and weaving.

In creating a wall hanging for your home, select a design that reminds you of a favorite place or thing. Think of colors that will add spice! You may want to work with fabric and select yarn. It is a challenge to get design, color, fabrics, and yarn together in a beautiful arrangement.

CREATING A DESIGN

It takes thought and planning to create a well designed wall hanging. Select a design that has meaning for you. Choose a design that reminds you of an enjoyable place or thing. This design may be a flower, a fruit, a flag, a missile, a fountain, or a city. Your design may be an actual reproduction of your idea. Or your design may be an abstraction which represents your idea. In any case, keep the design for your wall hanging simple.

The designs in Figure 1 can be applied to wall hangings. For your wall hanging you may want to modify one of these designs. If none of these designs have meaning for you, create your own! Nature is full of designs—look at sea shells, leaves, butterflies, and other natural objects. Design ideas may be found in pictures in magazines, photographs from the family album, or drawings made by your children. If a picture suggests an idea, try to put that idea on fabric.

Certain principles need to be followed in creating a design. Lines forming the design should allow smooth movement of the eye. Different parts of the design should not be so big nor so little that the design looks distorted. The total design should not appear crowded or lost on the background fabric. Your finished design and wall hanging should have balance. That is, the top should not appear heavier that the bottom, nor one side heavier than the other.

SELECTING SIZE AND SHAPE

Decide where you want to place the wall hanging. Available space can help determine the size of the finished hanging. An attractive proportion occurs when the shorter side is longer than one third but shorter than two thirds of the length of the longer side (Figure 2). Other proportions may also be appealing. Often the dominant line of a design suggests a vertically or horizontally shaped background. The dotted lines in Figure 3 illustrate the dominant line of those designs.
UNIT II CAPSULE

CREATING A WALL HANGING

MESSAGE:

In this capsule, you will have many opportunities to use what you learned in Design in Space Capsule. It should be a great help in understanding the points to look for when selecting pattern fabric for other home furnishings experiences.

THINGS TO DO:

Make a design.
Select fabric for a background.
Apply the design to fabric by:
   - embroidering
   - appliqueing
   - painting with wax
Framing or hanging the wall hanging.
Take pictures to show the steps of construction.
Give a demonstration on what you have learned.

To successfully complete this capsule you will need to design and complete two wall hangings and use one in your Space for Living.

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Use paper in visualizing the size of your hanging. Hold the paper against the wall. The paper should cover the space where the finished product will hang. If the paper is too big, fold the edges under. Continue folding until the paper becomes the desired size and shape of your wall hanging. If the paper is too short or narrow, glue, tape, or pin several papers together.

After you determine the wall hanging's dimensions, decide on the exact size and shape of the design. Cut a paper rectangle the size of your finished wall hanging. On this paper draw the design you have selected. Your first drawing may look distorted, but keep working with the design until it becomes the size and shape you want.

CHOOSING THE COLORS

Your wall hanging should complement the color scheme of your room. Color can add contrast and interest to a room. For example, lemon yellow on a green background might be used in a room of pinks and greens. Color in wallhangings can also be used for accenting. In a room of black and white, hot pink daisies or a red motorcycle on black might add "pizzazz." A wall hanging may be of colors which blend with the colors of your room. A yellow sunflower on natural burlap would blend with golds and browns.

Deciding on colors for your wall hanging can be exciting! First, think about the color of your design. Designs can be "eye catching" in natural colors. You expect a lemon to be yellow and a zebra to be black and white. However, both natural and man-made designs can be striking in uncommon colors. A mushroom may have a stem of white and a cap of red with white polka dots. A missle may be navy blue with burnt orange trim.

Take your drawn design into your room. Try to imagine your design in colors. Place different shades and tints of color around the design until you decide on the colors to use. (Threaded spools, yarn scraps, fabric scraps, or colored pencils can be used to experiment with color combinations.) The wall hanging background should be noticeably darker or lighter than the design. This use of color and color value can make the design more vivid.

FINDING A FABRIC

Give thought to the selection of a background fabric. A textured background can add interest to a simple design. The background fabric should be durable. Burlap and similar fabrics hold their shape and are easy to handle. You may be able to find background fabric among sewing scraps in your house. Sometimes you can find an appropriate fabric on a remnant table in a store.

APPLIQUEING OR EMBROIDERING

Assemble your pattern, fabric, yarn or felt, scissors, needle and/or glue, etc. Trim your background fabric, making it the size you want. Allow extra fabric for finishing all edges. Using the pattern you drew, cut the design out of any fabric that does not ravel extensively. Or, for an embroidered design, trace the pattern on the fabric with pencil or chalk. Apply the design of felt or yarn to the fabric.
APPLYING THE DESIGN

Different materials may be used to form designs on fabric. Yarn is easy to apply. It may either be glued or stitched to the background fabric. An embroidered design will be more durable than a glued one. When stitching with yarn, use a needle with a big eye. Some basic stitches used in making wall hangings are illustrated in Fig. 4.

![Stitches](image)

Felt is another material which is easy to apply. When using felt, cut it in the form of your design (Figure 5). This design can then be glued or stitched in place. Glue tends to draw felt flat against a background. To prevent a spotted effect, spread glue evenly over the entire back of the felt. Then put the felt in place on the fabric background. You may want to use yarn or other materials to add details to your design.

![Fish Design](image)

USING FABRIC AND STRETCHER BARS
From Katherine Habel

A bold and bright linen towel or a handsome length of fabric can be mounted to make a wall hanging in a few minutes with only a staple gun and four canvas stretcher bars from an art store.

Select the size of bars to allow an inch of overlapping fabric on all sides. The corners of the bars fit smoothly together, forming right angles without a miter box or any tools. Before mounting, dampen the fabric and iron it flat to eliminate wrinkles and bubbles.

Use a staple gun to attach fabric to the back side of the frame. Staple alternately on opposite edges to keep fabric smooth, straight, and taut all around.

To finish mounting, use adhesive fabric tape to cover the sides and back of fabric and frame.
HANGING YOUR CREATION

Decide how you will hang your finished product. Some wall hangings are supported at the top but hand unlined and unmounted. The wall hanging in Figure 6 is supported by strips of fabric around a stick. Some wall hangings are suspended from a dowel rod (Figure 7).

![Figure 6](image1.png)  ![Figure 7](image2.png)  ![Figure 8](image3.png)

The edges of fabric hangings need to be finished. Fabric with edges that ravel may need to be mounted or framed. Before framing a wall hanging, mount it on a stiff backing. You can mount your wall hanging by stretching it over a piece of plywood or corrugated cardboard. Turn the edges under and tack, staple, or glue them to the back side (Figure 8).

Your wall hanging is now ready to hang! Have you enjoyed being creative? It's fun to see the idea of a wall hanging become a reality. Look in stores and magazines at other types of decorative hangings. Notice the different fabrics, designs, and materials in use. Let wall hangings add a personal touch to your home.

Acknowledgments: Bertha C. Nickel
Oklahoma State University

PAINTING WITH WAX
by Sue Powell
From Katherine Habel

Painting pictures with wax is very challenging and rewarding. A few simple materials and a vivid imagination are all that one needs to create a fascinating conversation piece, as well as beautiful artistry.

Discarded crayons or candles will serve as the medium, and an old paint brush will do well as the applicator.

The design which is to be painted should first be drawn onto a piece of wood, preferably fiberboard, as wax sticks well to such a material. The artist may choose to woodburn his design before applying the wax.

Selected colors of wax are melted separately in old saucepans or a muffin pan. Then the melted wax is applied to the board with the brush, just as one would do when utilizing paint as a medium. The work must be done quickly; any color that is used extensively may have to be re-melted several times, for the wax hardens rapidly.

Textures can be created with wax just as is done when using paints, by varying the thickness and smoothness with which the wax is applied.

If desired, the artist can paint over the wax with acrylics or thick watercolors. This is especially useful if one does not have a needed shade of wax; just use a neutral color and then paint it after it has hardened.

Wax painting takes time and patience, but it is well worth the artist's efforts. The result is a unique creation, and the finished picture is the subject of much interest and praise.
UNIT II
CAPSULE
RECORD

NAME

ADDRESS

Check your finished wall hangings.

What do you think of the finished article?

What did you learn from your project?

Did you enjoy this creative arts activity?

Did you take pictures to show steps of construction?

Did you teach others what you learned?