

# HESSIAN PICTURE 01

1. Hessian is a sackcloth-like fabric that is generally used as the backing for carpets. Cut sections of hessian out, about 15-20cm square. However, this is only a rough guide. I just usually cut enough to fit on an A4 card when finished. You don't need to be too careful when cutting out the pieces either as this can add to the appeal of the finished product. If the piece of hessian has an edge that has been sealed, this will need to be cut off.
2. When all pupils have a piece of hessian each, I usually start off this lesson by talking about the fabric and asking questions:
  - Has anyone ever seen this fabric before?
  - What is it called?
  - What is it used for?
  - What does it smell like? What does the smell remind you of?
  - Describe the texture / feel of the fabric?
  - Would you make an item of clothing with this fabric? Why / why not?
  - Talk about the way the fabric is put together, how it is woven together, with each string going over/under each other.
3. Lay the piece of hessian flat on the table. Place one hand flat on the hessian and begin to remove some of the strings on all four edges of the fabric, thereby creating a "fringe" effect. This gives the hessian a nice border.

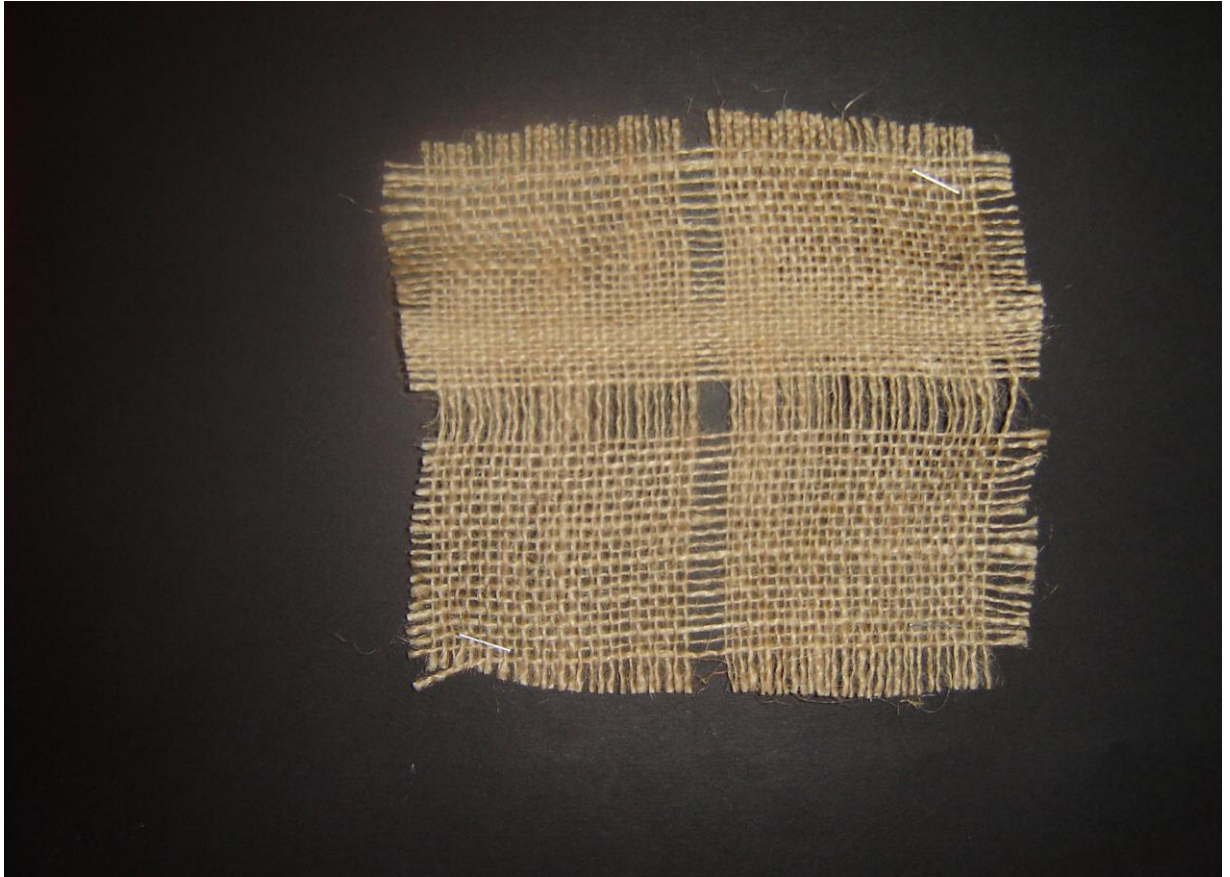
# HESSIAN PICTURE 01

4. Next, with a hand still flat and holding the hessian down firmly, begin to remove some strings from the centre of the fabric using a "tugging" technique, creating lines / patterns. This is called deconstructing the fabric. Encourage the pupils not to remove too many strings from the piece of hessian as it may fall apart.
5. Mount the finished fabric onto some coloured or black A4 card or sugar paper. These look really well when displayed together.

## Follow-Up Activity

- Place a sheet of A4 paper over the finished hessian and make a rubbing using wax crayons, revealing the pattern and the weaving of the fabric.
- Save the strings that have been pulled out of the hessian and ask the pupils to create a picture of their own using these strings. I'm always amazed at the work that pupils can come up with. They just use Pritt Stick to stick the strings to the card. (This is described in lesson 5)

# HESSIAN PICTURE 01



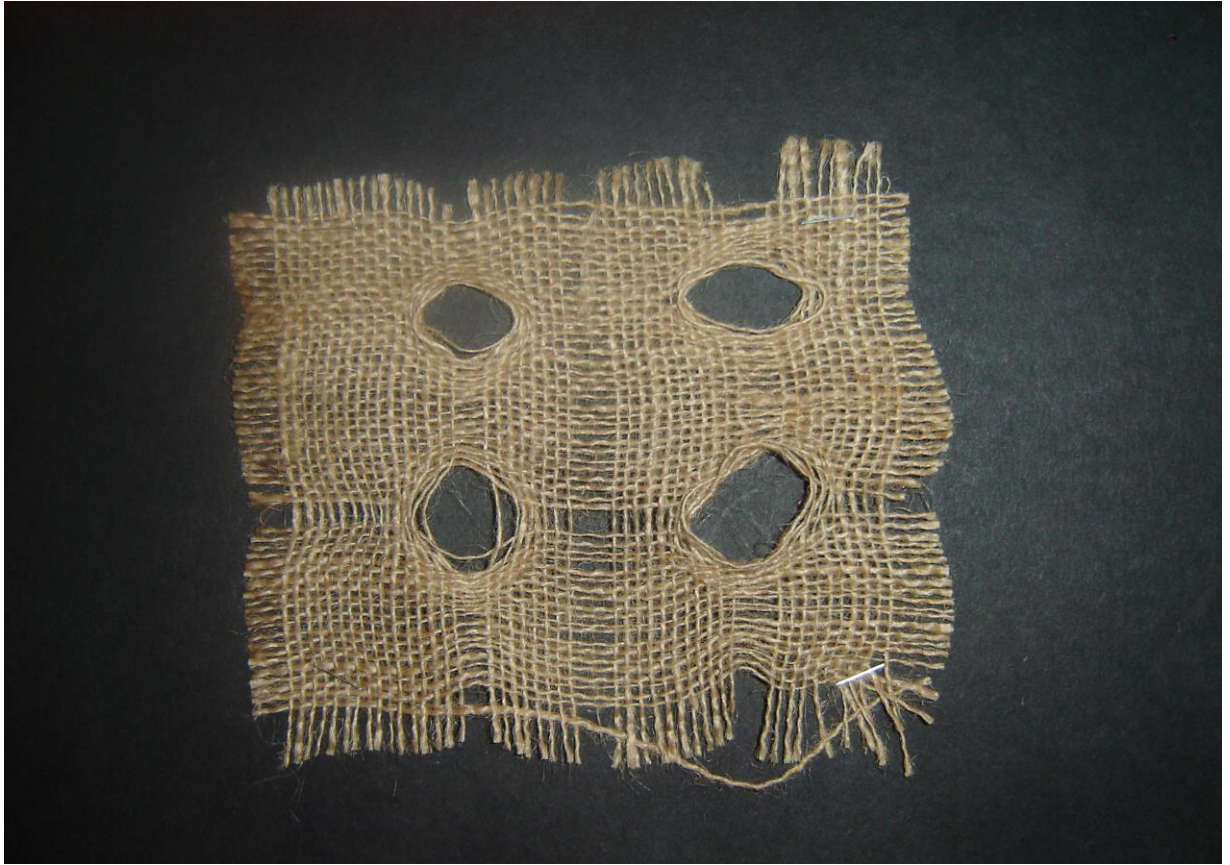
# HESSIAN PICTURE 02

1. This is a follow-up lesson to the previous picture.
2. As before, deconstruct a piece of hessian, roughly A4 in size, leaving a pattern in the hessian.
3. Next, place a finger into a space in the fabric and widen it to create a larger hole. Make a pattern of holes in other areas of the fabric.
4. Mount the finished fabric onto some coloured or black A4 card or sugar paper. These look really well when displayed together.

## Follow-Up Activity

1. As before, place a sheet of A4 paper over the finished hessian and make a rubbing, revealing the pattern and the weaving of the fabric.
2. Save the strings that have been pulled out of the hessian and ask the pupils to create a picture of their own using these strings. This could be done at the end of the series of hessian lessons when you have gathered lots of loose strings.

# HESSIAN PICTURE 02



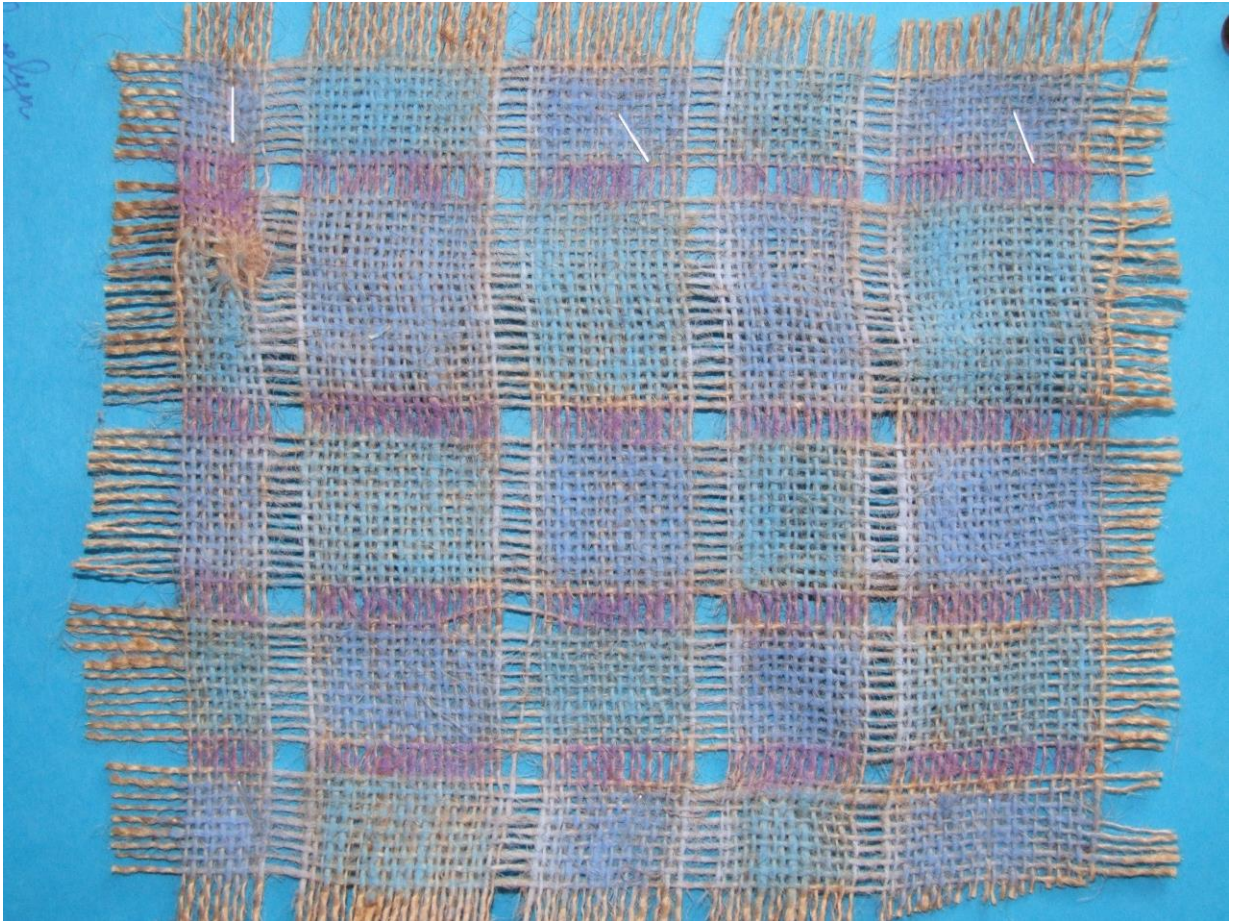
# HESSIAN PICTURE 03

1. This is a follow-up lesson to the previous pictures.
2. As before, deconstruct a piece of hessian, roughly A4 in size, leaving a pattern in the hessian.
3. Then, using chalk pastels, colour a pattern onto the hessian, using two colours or many colours.
4. Mount the finished fabric onto some coloured or black A4 card or sugar paper. These look really well when displayed together.
5. Again, save the strings that have been pulled out of the hessian for a later lesson.

# HESSIAN PICTURE 03

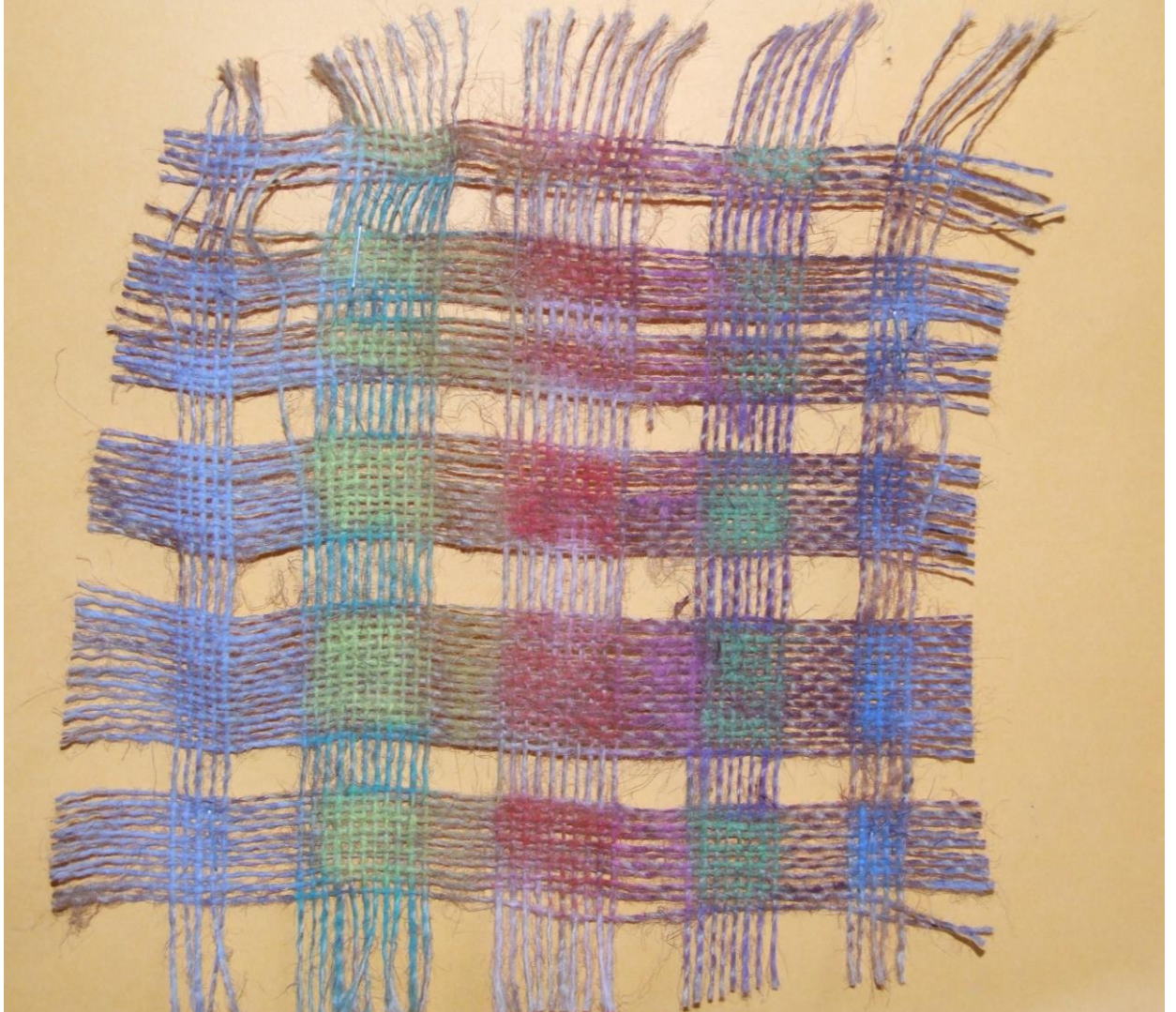


# HESSIAN PICTURE 03





# HESSIAN PICTURE 03



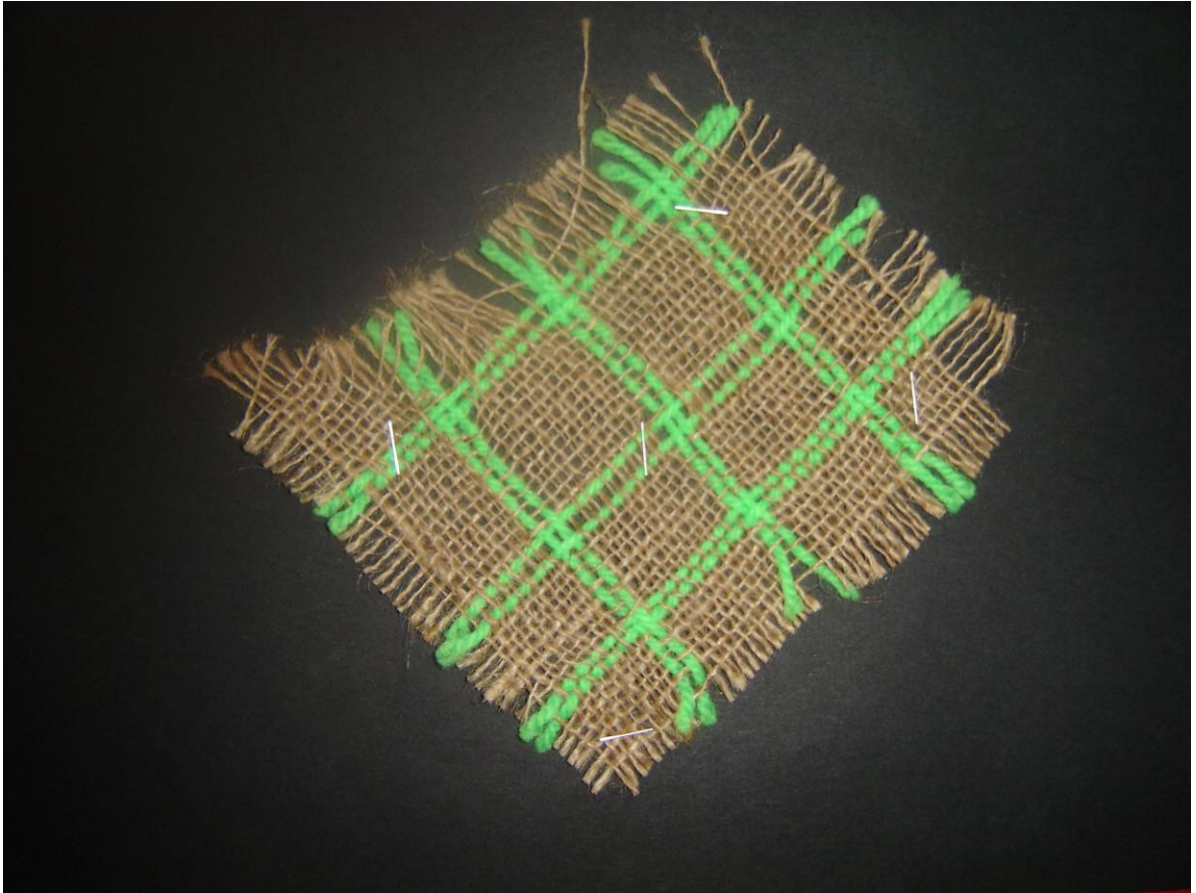
# HESSIAN PICTURE 03



# HESSIAN PICTURE 04

1. This is a follow-up lesson to the previous pictures.
2. As before, deconstruct a piece of hessian, roughly A4 in size, leaving a pattern in the hessian.
3. When the deconstruction is completed, get some coloured wool and a darning needle (plastic child-friendly ones are available), and weave in the coloured wool into the spaces left vacant from the earlier deconstruction, ensuring that the "under / over" rule is understood.
4. For extra decoration, pupils could sew on buttons, tie in some ribbons etc.
5. Mount the finished fabric onto some coloured or black A4 card or sugar paper. These look really well when displayed together.
6. Again, save the strings that have been pulled out of the hessian for a later lesson.

# HESSIAN PICTURE 04



# HESSIAN PICTURE 05

1. This is a follow-up lesson to the previous pictures.
2. Having completed some of the other hessian lessons, make sure pupils have saved the strings that have been pulled out of the hessian during the deconstruction process.
3. Give each pupil a piece of A4 card and ask them to create a picture of their own using these leftover strings. You are better off not giving the pupils ideas on what to do. Just encourage them to use their imaginations to create a piece of art. The example below is just an example of what one pupil came up with using these leftover pieces of string.
4. Of course, pupils can also use other art media to complete the picture – markers, crayons or other pieces of material. I'm always amazed at the work that pupils can come up with. They just use Pritt Stick to stick the strings to the card.

# HESSIAN PICTURE 05



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