

NEEDLECRAFTS

PROJECT BREAKDOWN: We offer six (6) categories under needlecrafts. They are as follows: (1) counted cross stitch** (2) crochet; (3) embroidery; (4) knitting; (5) needlepoint; and (6) miscellaneous needlecrafts. We provide project requirements for five categories. Any other needlecraft falls under Misc. Needlecraft, such as the following: candle wicking, chicken scratch, hand quilting (no machine quilting), tatting, huck embroidery, hemstitching, and punch needle work. If you chose one of the items from Misc. Needlecraft, your project work should be grade appropriate. If you need resources or assistance for any of the project options it is suggested that you search online or the library.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS: All needlecraft projects **MUST** have an attached craft information card. The card may be attached with string or taped to the back. A project label is required and should be attached with pin, string or tape.

FRAMING: Needlecraft pictures are more suitable in art frames than photography frames. An art frame may be either handcrafted or purchased. An art frame has a rabbet edge into which the craft item, matting and backing fit and are secured. A photography frame is used by sliding the picture in. The final decision on using glass on a craft project must be the 4-H'ers. Needlecraft projects are not required to be framed but the project needs to be finished, ready to use, and clean; hence, pictures ready to hang, pillows ready to toss on the couch, etc.

STATE FAIR: Two (2) Needlecraft projects are sent from Rush County to the Indiana State Fair.

**We provide project requirements for Counted Cross Stitch. However, there are other pulled, drawn, and counted thread work techniques out there for 4-H'ers to try. If a 4-H'er has an interest in one of these other techniques, they are allowed to do them. It is suggested to search online or the library for resources available for 4-H'ers wanting to look into other options.

COUNTED CROSS STITCH

Level A: 3rd & 4th Grade

LEARN: Equipment available, how to center a design, how to secure threads, how to finish off threads, how to read counted cross-stitch design charts, how to backstitch.

EXHIBIT: One article (small picture, small quotation, bookmark, etc.) using a simple design with **one to seven colors of floss** on 11 or 14 count per inch counted cross-stitch fabric.

Level B: 5th & 6th Grade

LEARN: One-quarter, one-half, and three-quarter stitches; how to launder counted cross stitch work properly; differences in various types of fabrics

EXHIBIT: One article using counted cross-stitch fabric of 14 or 18 count per inch. Use up to **14 colors of floss**. (Could be a picture, quotation, bookmark, refrigerator magnets (two or more), etc.). Article and design should be larger and/or more difficult than previously exhibited.

Level C: 7th, 8th, & 9th

LEARN: Different techniques used in assembling articles.

EXHIBIT: One article using 14, 18, or 22 count per inch fabric. No limit on colors. Ex., large picture, set of six (6) Christmas ornaments, tray, etc.

Level D: 10th, 11th, & 12th

LEARN: How to recognize and use various fabrics, such as linens, fiddler's cloth, salem cloth, etc. May learn to use waste canvas.

EXHIBIT: Picture, purse, bell pull, tray, tablecloth and napkins, broom cover, towel, apron, etc. May make own design. Project should be different and more advanced than previous years.

COUNTED CROSS STITCH TIPS

1. Each coded square on charts represents a cross-stitch, which is composed of a stitch and a return stitch forming an **X**. All of the X's must cross in the same direction.
 2. Determine the center of your fabric by folding your material in fourths. The point where the folds intersect is in the center. You should count from the center point of your chart in relation to the center of your fabric in order to find a starting point to cross-stitch.
 3. **Never** knot thread. Hold an inch of thread behind the fabric and secure it by the first three or four stitches. To end off a thread, run the needle under a few stitches in back and slip thread out. Cut close. An optional, neat way to secure threads when using two ply –
 - a. Using long single ply of floss, double so ends are together. Thread needle.
 - b. Make first half of X.
 - c. On backside, bring needle through the loop and pull. This will secure the thread without any loose ends.
 4. Twisted thread - if your floss becomes twisted, just drop your needle and let it hang down. It will unwind by itself. Floss is less likely to become twisted if separated from the skein one ply at a time before threading the needle.
 5. Needle - Don't leave needle in the design area of your work. There is danger of it rusting. The needle may be left at the edge of the fabric. If using a hoop, do not leave on overnight. Remove hoop when finished stitching for the day.
 6. Laundering - To be certain of colorfastness, test a scrap or corner of your fabric and leftover pieces of floss first. If the dyes don't run in either fabric or floss, you're safe. When washing, use mild soap and cold water. Rinse well in clear, cold water. Do not wring. Allow to dry to slight dampness on a flat surface. Then place face down on a terry towel and press the back with a warm iron.
 7. Loose thread on back of work - don't jump too far from one area to another. If more than four spaces separate stitches, finish off work and start again. Loose threads, especially dark colors, will show through on the front.
 8. Use the stab-stick method. It is done in two motions - straight up, then straight down, keeping fabric taut. This will prevent pulling the fabric out of shape. The use of an embroidery hoop will help keep the fabric taut.
 9. Six-strand embroidery floss is used in most cases for counted cross-stitch. Two strands are usually used when working on Aida cloth. One strand is usually used in backstitching.
 10. Hand whip with a zigzag stitch or machine zigzag edges of fabric to prevent raveling. Masking tape may also be used for this purpose.
 11. All articles need to be finished, ready to use. For example, pictures should be framed and ready to hang.
 12. When using linen, cross over two threads instead of one. Cross-stitching on linen does not require an embroidery hoop. A sewing stitch is used instead of a stab stitch.
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CROCHET

Level A: 3rd & 4th Grades

LEARN: Equipment available, reading and following directions, standard abbreviations, chain stitch, single crochet, how to measure rows, checking and correcting gauge, turning at the end of a row, securing yarn ends, finishing off yarn ends, slip stitch.

EXHIBIT: **One article** - pot holder, belt, neck scarf, wide headband, table hot pad, place mat, **using one color of yarn (variegated is permitted).**

Level B: 5th & 6th Grades

LEARN: To add a new skein of yarn, changing colors of yarn, double crochet, half-double crochet, working in rounds, ribbing, increasing and decreasing, blocking, joining seams.

EXHIBIT: Small area rug, pillow top (made into pillow for exhibit), hat, mittens (one pair), slippers (one pair), small purse, infant carriage cover.

Level C: 7th, 8th, & 9th

LEARN: Fancy stitches (afghan stitch, filet, shell, popcorn); treble crochet, double and triple treble, correcting errors, review joining seams.

EXHIBIT: Poncho, shrug, simple sweater, and infant sweater set (bonnet, sweater and booties); vest, simple child's dress or jumper, afghan, stuffed toys (set of two).

Level D: 10th, 11th, & 12th

LEARN: Crocheted edgings, using crochet thread and steel hooks (sizes 00 through 10), beaded crochet, broomstick lace, filet crochet, hair pin lace, chevron stitch, loop stitch, pineapple stitch.

EXHIBIT: Bedspread, tablecloth, large single doily or set of three (3) small doilies, coat, dress, multi-stitch afghan, multi-stitch and multi-colored sweater.

EMBROIDERY

(Including Crewel & Stamped Cross Stitch)

Level A: 3rd & 4th Grades

LEARN: Equipment available, reading and following directions, how to make basic embroidery stitches (lazy daisy, running, outline, cross stitch (not counted), French knot, back stitch, satin, chain, split), how to launder embroidery work properly.

EXHIBIT: Small tea towel, pillow case (one), small picture, using at least two of the above named stitches.

Level B: 5th & 6th Grades

LEARN: At least two more embroidery stitches that you have not previously done.

EXHIBIT: One article, which includes four or more of the basic embroidery stitches, listed under Level A.

Level C: 7th, 8th, & 9th Grades

LEARN: Some of the following stitches:

- a. filling stitches: seed, star, trellis, fagot, turkey
- b. edge stitches: knotted blanket, crossed blanket
- c. border stitches: herringbone, chevron, shadow embroidery

EXHIBIT: One larger article than previously made using two or more of the above stitches (filling, edge or border), in addition to some of the basic stitches.

Level D: 10th, 11th, & 12th Grades

LEARN: New stitches not tried before. Possibly work with crewel wool on linen or other fabric.

EXHIBIT: One larger article with a variety of at least eight (8) stitches.

KNITTING

Level A: 3rd & 4th Grade

LEARN: Equipment available; abbreviations, casting on; checking and correcting gauge; maintaining even tension; knit and pearl stitches; garter stitch; stockinet stitch; binding off; finishing yarn ends.

EXHIBIT: **One article** - pot holder, headband, scarf, pillow top (made into pillow for exhibit), infant carriage cover - made on **a pair** of needles **using one color or yarn or variegated yarn.**

Level B: 5th & 6th Grade

LEARN: Ribbing stitch; changing colors; use of circular needles; use of double-pointed needles; increasing; decreasing, yarn over; joining yarn.

EXHIBIT: **One article** - ski mask, vest, mittens (one pair); slippers (one pair); leg warmers (one pair); golf club mitts (one pair); stuffed toy. Use two or more colors of yarn on regular, double-pointed or circular needles.

Level C: 7th, 8th, & 9th

LEARN: Fitting and shaping; special pattern stitches or designs (cable, seed, shell, etc.); pick up and knit technique; joining seams; blocking; correcting errors; double strand knitting.

EXHIBIT: **One article** - infant or child's garment; simple bathing suit; sweater; poncho; simple afghan; of hat, scarf and mittens; pair of gloves, skirt.

Level D: 10th, 11th, & 12th

LEARN: More difficult pattern stitches; pattern designs in two or more colors (ski sweater patterns, monogramming, fisherman knit or Aryan.)

EXHIBIT: Pattern stitch afghan; sweater set (pullover and cardigan. Pullover may be vest or short-sleeves); dress; patterned sweater; coat; complete baby set (sweater, blanket, hat, booties and bottle cover).

NEEDLEPOINT

*Plastic Canvas is **NOT** to be used in Needlepoint. It is acceptable only in Other Crafts.*

Level A: 3rd & 4th Grade

LEARN: Equipment available, reading and following directions, half-cross and/or continental stitches.

EXHIBIT: One small article (picture, belt, etc., using one or both of the above stitches. May use a pre-worked design.

Level B: 5th & 6th Grade

LEARN: Some of the following stitches: diagonal, basketweave, cross-stitch, upright cross.

EXHIBIT: One article (picture, belt, eyeglass case, book cover) using one or more of stitches learned. Quickpoint or regular needlepoint canvas may be used. Kits with pre-worked design acceptable.

Level C: 7th, 8th, & 9th

LEARN: More stitches, such as brick, checker, leaf, upright gobelin, smyrna cross, fern, florentine, checkerboard.

EXHIBIT: Larger article than previously exhibited using stitches learned in Levels A and B, plus two more stitches listed above. (Picture, totebag, pillow, etc.) Quickpoint or regular needlepoint canvas may be used. Kits with pre-worked design acceptable.

Level D: 10th, 11th, & 12th

LEARN: Stitches such as slanting gobelin, Parisian, Hungarian, Byzantine, mosaic, cashmere, scotch, plus variations of these.

EXHIBIT: Chair seat cover, large picture, tennis racket cover, etc., using at least two stitches listed above. Kits with pre-worked design acceptable. Quickpoint or regular needlepoint canvas may be used.
