**Primary (2-3) Lesson**

**Curriculum: Mathematics Topic: Métis Finger Weaving**

Mathematics: Curricular Competencies

Content

* (2) Repeating and increasing patterns
* (2) Identifying the core of repeating patterns
* (3) Pattern rules using words and numbers, based on concrete experiences

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| ***Resources:*** [*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtBME0YFrLk*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtBME0YFrLk)  *5x15-20cm strands of yarn. Tape. Scissors.*   * *Suggestion: Teacher may want to prep 5 strands sets for students before hand* |

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| Introduction | Show students examples of Métis weaving (in person or online) and ask them to identify any patterns that they see. For example, colours, shapes, designs, etc.  Watch the Video to introduce students to the S.T.A.R. weaving method (S-Select, T-Travel, A-Arrange, R-Repeat), This video uses 2 colours and 8 strands, but to simplify we suggest starting with 5 strands. Detailed instructions below. |
| Activity | * Each student will need 5 strands of yarn (15-20cm in length each). We suggest using traditional Métis weaving colours (*see background information)*. * Tie 5 strands together with a simple knot at the end. Tape the knot to the student’s desk or table. Spread the stands out on the table numbering from left 1,2,3,4,5. Start by picking up strands 2 and 4. To begin: Select strand 5, Travel under 2 and 4 (past 1 spot to become the new 1 spot), Arrange them back in their new order, and repeat. If loose, hold down new strands 2-5 and gently tug the new strand 1 (former strand 5) up towards the knot. Tie in a knot at the opposite end. |
| Conclusion | Why do you think weaving was important to Métis people? What do you think the Sash could have been used for? Share. |

***Background Information for Teacher:*** *It is important to realize that finger weaving is not a craft. You are learning an art with cultural significance to the Métis. Sashes are a cultural symbol of Métis identity. The traditional Métis weaving colours are: Red - for the blood of the Métis that was shed through the years while fighting for our rights. Blue - for the depth of our spirits. Green - for the fertility of a great nation. White - for our connection to the earth and our creator. Yellow - for the prospect of prosperity. There are many traditions in the Métis culture, some of which are fiddle playing, folk songs and tales, arts such as beading and the Métis Sash. The sash served as a temporary tumpline, key holder, first aid kit, washcloth, towel and at times an emergency bridle or saddle blanket. It became a sewing kit at times during a buffalo hunt. This sash was particularly familiar to those who settled in the Red River area and is still an integral part of Métis celebrations today.*

[*http://www.metismuseum.ca/fingerweaving/*](http://www.metismuseum.ca/fingerweaving/)[*http://www.mnbc.ca/pdfs/order\_of\_the\_sash.pdf*](http://www.mnbc.ca/pdfs/order_of_the_sash.pdf)

Métis Finger Weaving Patterning Chart

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Lift strands 2 and 4. Move strand 5 under 2 and 4, over 1 and 3, to become strand 1.*

1 2 3 4 5

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**Legend** *(Example R - Red)*