

Common Loon Arts and Crafts

To learn more about loons, go to the Montana Loon Society web site at montanaloons.org

To learn more about Donna Love's book on loons, *Loons: Diving Birds of the North*, go to: donnalove.com



Paint A Loon

To create a loon painting that you and parents will love to display, follow these simple directions.

Paintings shown here were painted by 2nd graders using tempera paint.

1. Cut 12 x 18 inch white construction paper down to 10 x 16 inch. This way it will glue onto a 12 x 18 inch piece of construction paper to form a nice mat.
2. On the white paper, have students draw a triangle shape for the loon bill. Discuss placement. Some students will want to draw too large a triangle. Others will want to miniaturize the bill.
3. Have students draw a circle for the loon head with a small circle inside it for a loon eye. (Bird eyes are round!)
4. Have students draw the loon neck by drawing two parallel lines down from head.
5. Students then add a large oval shape for the loon body. Connect to neck.
6. Draw a half circle on the loon's chest. This area will remain white.
7. Paint entire loon black except the loon's chest. Allow paint to dry thoroughly.
8. Paint the loon's eye red.
9. Paint a few white dots under chin for the loon's white chin strap.
10. Paint longer white stripes on loon neck to make the loon's necklace.
11. Paint white stripes from loon chest in a half circle or arch to the bottom of loon.
12. Paint white squares across top of loon's back (about three rows.)
13. Paint white dots on the lower half of loon's back.
14. Add a black dot in the middle of loon eye and place a dot of white in the loon's eye to make the loon appear alive.
15. Paint water on bottom third of painting.
16. Mount painting on red 12 x 18 inch construction paper.



Create Your Own "LOONY" COIN

Canada has a one dollar coin with the picture of a loon on it. The coin is called a "loony." The new, 2005 quarter from Minnesota also has a loon on it.

Create your own "loony" coin using just cardboard, glue, aluminum foil and tempera using these simple steps.



This "coin" was made in 6th grade.

Supplies:

Cardboard
Scissors
Glue

Aluminum foil
Tempera (any color)

Directions:

1. Cut a 6" or 8" circle out of cardboard. (Hint: Any size circle will do, but 6" to 8" seems to work well. Its not too small to work with nor to big to fill.)
2. Design what your loony will look like. It can have trees, water, or just be a loon. Design a border around the outside.
3. Trace and cut out cardboard shapes to fit your design.
4. Glue cardboard designs on cardboard circle. Let glue dry.
5. Cover with one large sheet of aluminum foil, and gently press foil down around shapes.
6. Tape or glue the foil to back of coin.
7. For an antique effect, place a small amount of paint on a cloth and gently rub onto coin leaving paint thick in some places and rubbing it off in others.

Hand Print Loon



Students will love making loons out of their own hand print.

This sample was made in first grade.

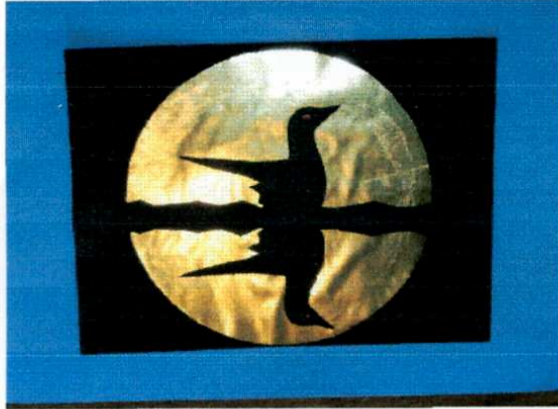
Supplies:

Paper	Q-tips or small paint brushes
Black and white paint	Blue and Green Glitter Glue
Paint brushes	Small red sequins

Directions:

1. Paint one student's hand black and press on paper with the thumb in the middle of the paper. Paint the student's other hand black and press down on paper making sure the thumbs overlap. Let student wash hands. (Hint: At this point it helps to have another student open doors, turn on faucets, help get soap, etc.)
2. Allow black paint to dry.
3. Paint a black bill (a small triangle) on loon.
4. Using Q-tips or small paint brush paint white spots on loon back and wings.
5. Glue a small red sequins on the loon head for eye.
6. Use blue and green glitter glue for water and grasses. (Tempera or other kinds of paint would also work.)

Loon Silhouettes



There is almost nothing prettier than a loon silhouetted against the moon. Make these loon silhouettes with black construction paper, foil paper, and glue.

The loon silhouette shown here was made in 2nd grade.

Supplies:

Black Construction Paper
Gold Foil Paper

Scissors Red glitter glue or small red sequins
Glue

Directions:

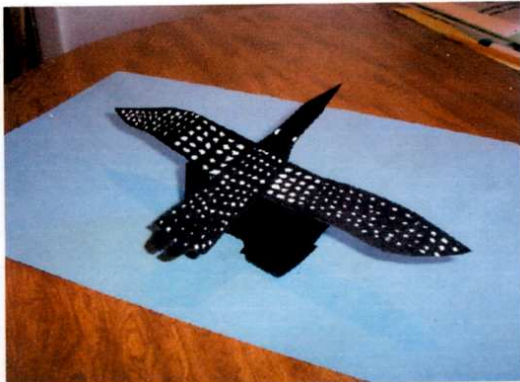
1. Cut an 8 1/2 inch circle out of gold foil paper.
2. Glue circle onto a 9 x 12 inch piece of black construction paper.
3. Trace loon pattern (see page 2) onto tag board or other sturdy cardboard to make a pattern that can be traced.
- 4.. Fold another piece of 9 x 12 inch black construction paper in half and place loon pattern on fold. Trace around pattern and cut out.
5. Unfold and glue onto the center of moon (gold foil paper).
6. Place a dot of glitter glue on loon heads for loon eye, or glue a on a small red sequins.

Hint: Completed project looks nice mounted on a large piece of dark green, blue or purple construction paper.



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3D Flying Loon

**The common loon has long wings and a distinct pattern on its back in flight.
Create this 3D flying loon to show both features.**

Loons shown here were made in 5th grade.

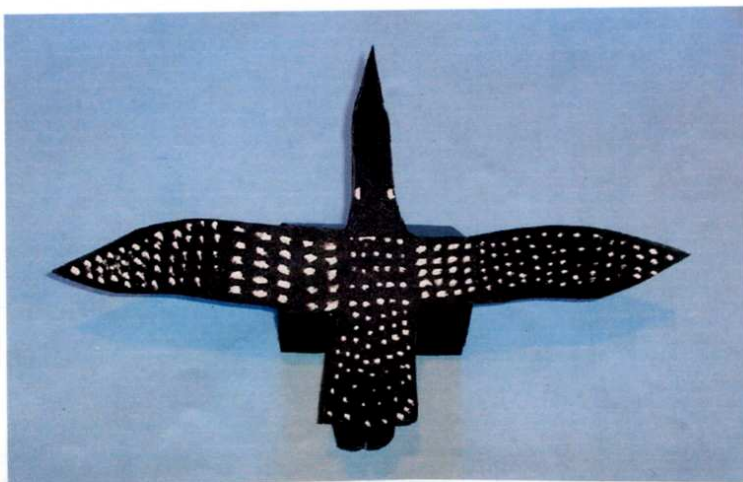
Supplies:

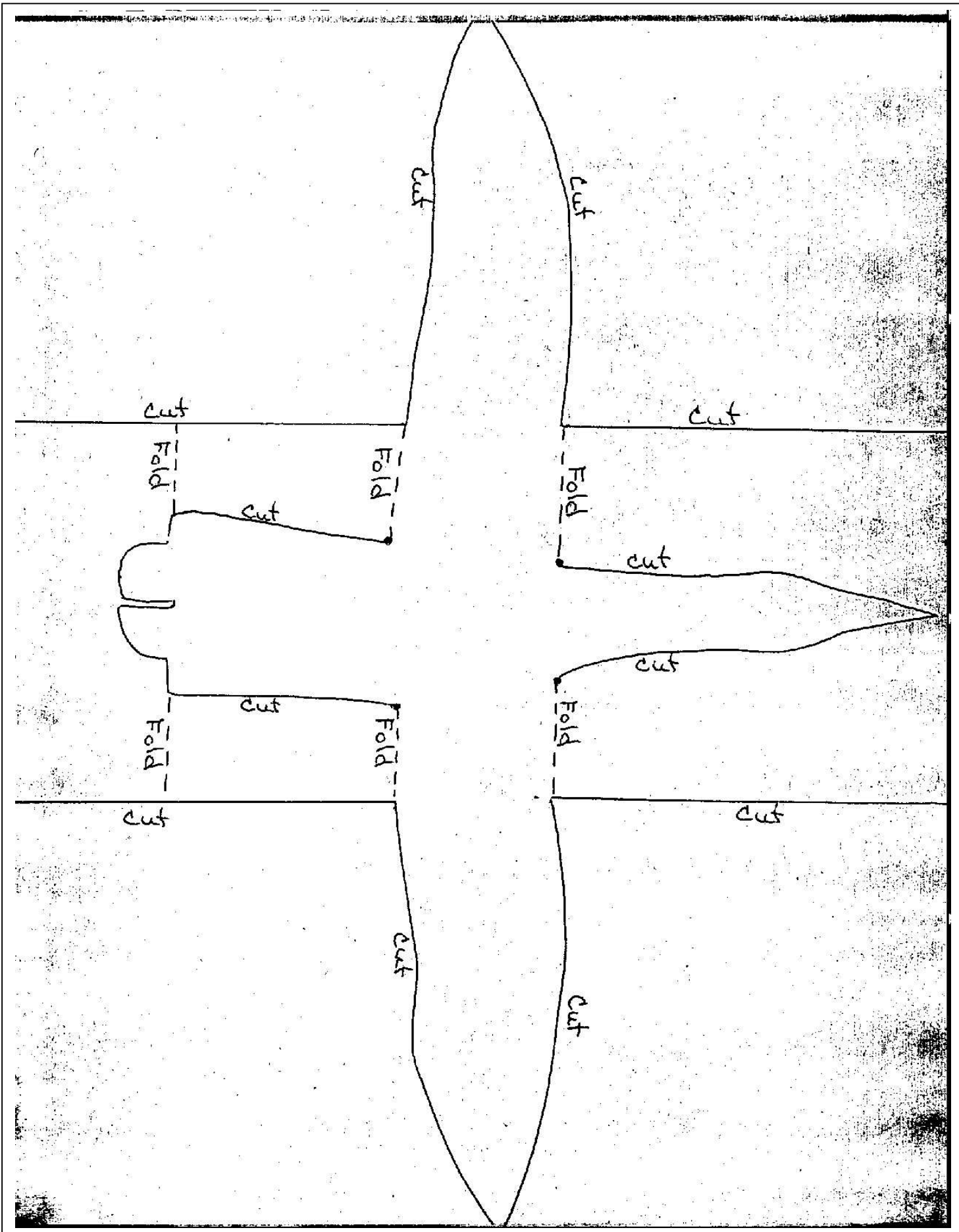
9 x 12 black construction paper
Pencil
Scissors

Glue or tape
White tempera paint
Paint Brushes or Q-tips

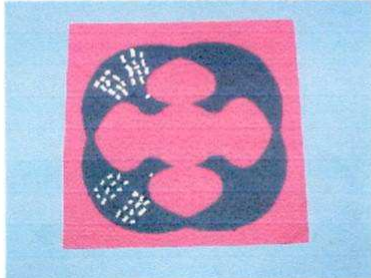
Directions:

1. Copy pattern (see page 2) onto black construction paper.
2. Cut out pattern as shown.
3. Lay flat and paint white dots on flying loon. Allow paint to dry.
4. Fold loon on fold lines.
5. Tape or glue fold in place on bottom.





Loon "Paper Dolls"



Have you ever made a string of paper dolls? How about loon paper dolls! Try this new take on a vintage idea.

This in-progress sample is from 4th Grade.

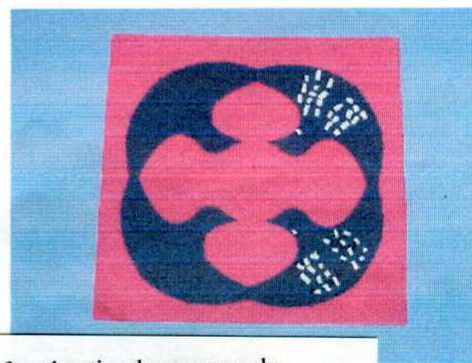
Supplies:

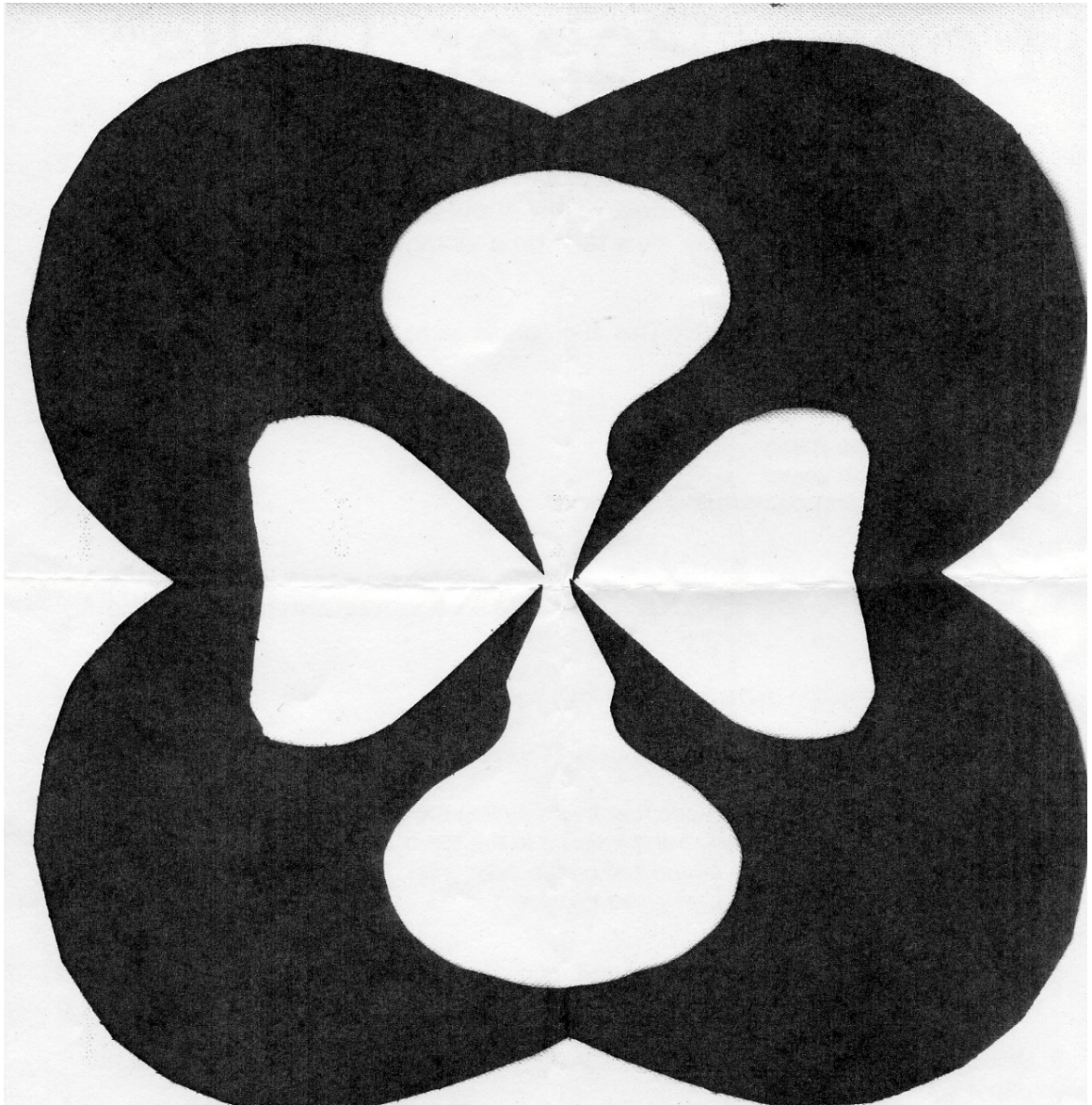
black construction paper
white construction paper
red (or other colors) construction paper

scissors
glue

Directions:

1. Cut red or other colors of construction paper into 9 x 9 inch squares for background paper.
2. Cut black construction paper into 8 x 8 inch squares.
3. Fold square in half and then in half again. (This is similar to making a snowflake.)
4. Starting near the folded middle corner, begin cutting the tip of the loon bill and continue cutting out a loon head and then on to the top of the loon wings. Leave a small section of black paper connected on the side. (Hint: This is very important or the loon wings will no longer be connected together.)
5. Leaving the wings connected, cut a small arch at bottom of loon to form the bottom of the wing.
6. Unfold and glue to 9 x 9 inch construction paper square.
7. Cut and glue small pieces of white construction paper onto loons. (Hint: The white spots could be painted on.)
8. Glue or paint a small red circle of red for eyes.





Paper Mache' Loons



Paper mache' is from the French, papier-mache', or "paper chew." It was originally made with shredded paper and glue, then molded into forms. Today, it is often applied moist to the outside of an **armature**, or mold and allowed to dry into a protective hard covering.

Supplies:

Newspaper

Paper towel tubes

Masking tape

Scissors

White glue or laundry starch

Water

Bucket or bowl

Paint Brushes

Black paint

White paint

Red paint

Instructions:

To build loon body armature, crumple one sheet of newspaper into a loose ball. Add another sheet of newspaper loosely around first sheet. Continue to add paper until the loon is the desired shape and size. (Three sheets of newspaper were used to make the sample loon body.) Tape into place with masking tape. (For a smoother look, balloons can also be used as armatures.)

Cut one 2 inch long cut in bottom of paper towel tube and cut both sides half way around tube so it will spread wide to fit across loon's chest. Then cut several 2 inch long cuts at top of tube and spread tube apart to hold head. Secure tube onto body with masking tape.

To form loon head crumple one sheet of newspaper into a loose ball. Add newspaper until head is desired shape and size. Place on top of cut paper towel tube and secure with masking tape.



To form loon bill, wrap about 1/4 sheet of newspaper into a cone shape and tape. Cut slits (similar to those cut in the end of the paper towel tube to hold the head) into the wide end of the cone shape and place against loon head. Secure with tape.

Paper Mache' Directions:

Mix one part white glue or laundry starch with two parts water in a large wide mouth bowl or bucket. Tear or cut newspaper into one inch wide strips and place in mixture. As strips are pulled out of the water, pull the strips between wet fingers to get rid of excess moisture. If loons are too wet, cover with a layer of dry newspaper strips.

Layer strips onto armature until loon is completely covered. Set loon upright as this allows loon to form a natural base to sit on. Allow to dry. (Hint: This makes a great Friday afternoon activity as it takes about three days to dry. After the weekend, lay loons on sides to dry bottom.)

When completely dry, apply another layer of paper mache' and allow to dry. A third layer may be required, but not usually. The paper mache' is thick enough when the outer shell is hard and has no soft spots when dry. Covering the soft parts may be all that is required.



Painting Directions:

Paint whole loon black. Allow to dry. When dry, paint eyes red. (Hint: Birds have round eyes with a black dot for pupil.) Paint three to five white chin stripes, white stripes on neck for the loon necklace (Hint: the necklace doesn't completely connect in front or back.), white chest, and finally white dots on back. Add a small white dot to each eye to help the loon eye look moist and alive.

Display loons and enjoy.

Weave A Loon



First graders enjoy weaving placements. Upper grades will enjoy weaving a loon!

This sample was completed by a fifth grade student.

Supplies:

12 x 18 inch black construction paper

1/2 x 2 inch strip of red construction paper

White construction paper cut into 1/2 inch, 1 inch and 2 inch strips.

Scissors

Glue or tape

Directions:

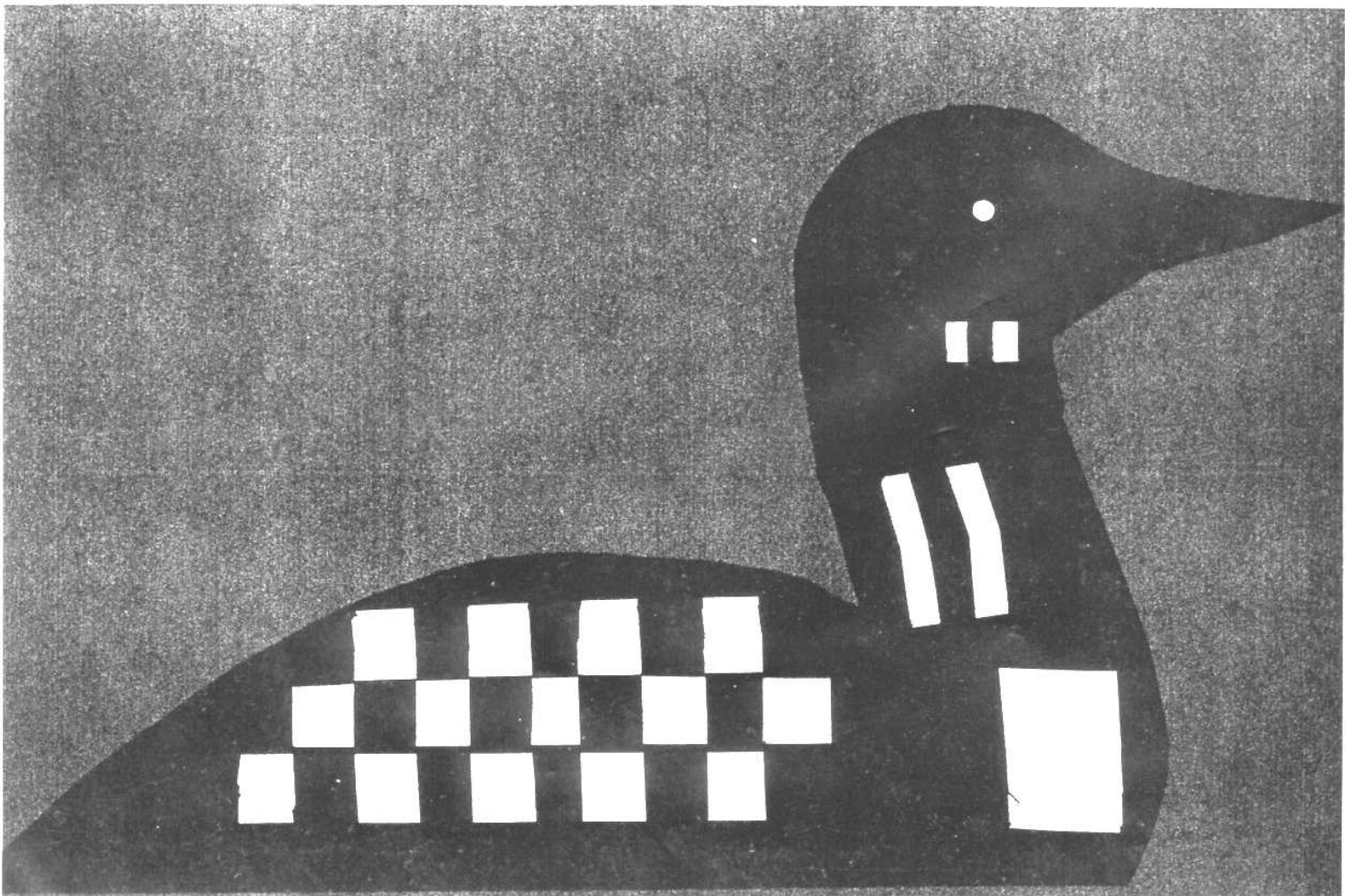
1. Copy loon pattern (see page 2) onto 12 x 18 inch black paper or design own loon, and cut out.
2. Cut two 1/2 inch slits 1/2 inch apart in the head for an eye. Weave a 1/2 inch strip of red construction paper through these to make the eye.
3. Cut four 1/2 inch slits 1/2 inch apart under loon chin. Weave a 1/2 inch strip of white construction paper through these to form the loon's chin strap.
4. Cut four 2 inch slits 1/2 inch apart in loon neck. Weave a 2 inch strip of white construction paper through these slits to make the loon necklace.
5. Cut two 1 inch slits 1 1/2 inch apart in loon chest. Weave a 2 inch white strip through the slits to make the loon's white chest.
6. Cut nine 3 inch slits 1 inch apart on the loon back. Then make one 2 inch slit at the front and back of that. (These two have to be shorter due to the width of the loon's back.) Weave three 1 inch white strips across loon back for the loon's spots.
7. Cut strips that are too long and glue or tape to back of loon. Glue loon to 12 x 18 inch paper. Decorate background any way you choose.

Hint: Be sure to have lots of 12 x 18 inch construction paper on hand. Until the students get the hang of this, there will be some mistakes.

Pattern for Loon Weaving

To use the loon pattern below, copy the loon onto 11 x 17" paper at 200%.

To create a templet students can trace onto 12 x 18" black construction paper, trace the 11 x 17" loon on tag board and cut out. (Hint: Make three or four so students can share.)



**Here are some other ideas that are new.
They don't have directions,
But if you see them
You'll know what to do!**



Paper Plate and Bean Loons – Paper plate keeps the beans under control. Paint tempera water, add Crepe paper reeds.



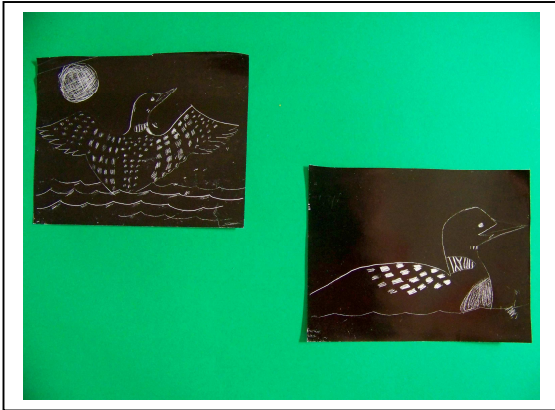
After painting, glue down white or black beans or continue painting.



If children draw loon head too close to the edge of the paper plate, they can point the bill the other direction.



Paper Mache' loon chick cracking out of egg. (Use small round balloon for egg armature, newspaper for chick.)



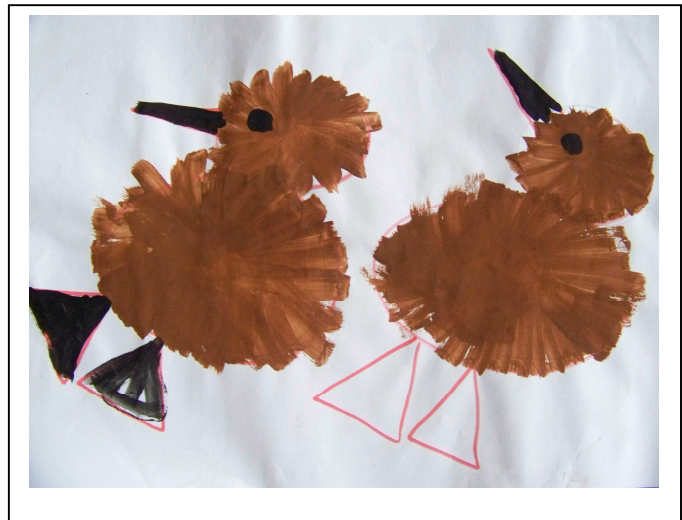
Black Scratch Paper Loons



Use masking tape to keep foreground trees white. Paint background and loons with watercolor using a limited pallet. Let dry overnight (absolutely necessary!). Next day pull off masking tape and paint birch or aspen tree designs on foreground trees.



Paper mache' loon egg. Use wad of newspaper or small round balloon for armature.



Draw loons and chicks using simple shapes: round head, triangle bill and feet, round eye, half-oval body, etc. Let black dry before adding red eye and white spots, or leave white areas unpainted.

