



Hogwarts House Banners

In this unit, the children will use their sewing skills to create an authentic prop for one of the Harry Potter films. They will learn how to use a range of stitches and embroidery techniques and have the freedom to choose an appropriate design and materials.

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Key Questions

- Which stitch joins fabric the most securely?
- When might it be useful to use running stitch/blanket stitch/back stitch/over stitch?
- Which materials would be most effective when creating a banner?
- How do you thread a needle?
- Why is computer aided design useful when designing a product?
- How will you ensure that your design meets the design criteria?



Key Vocabulary

appliqué	Ornamental needlework in which pieces of fabric are sewn or stuck on to a larger piece to form a picture or pattern.
back stitch	A method of sewing with overlapping stitches.
blanket stitch	A buttonhole stitch used on the edges of a blanket or other material too thick to be hemmed
computer aided design (CAD)	The use of computers to aid in the creation, modification, analysis, or optimization of a design. CAD software is used to increase the productivity of the designer, improve the quality of design, improve communications through documentation, and to create a database for manufacturing.
cross stitch	A stitch formed of two stitches crossing each other.
embroidery	The craft of decorating fabric or other materials using a needle to apply thread or yarn. Embroidery may also incorporate other materials such as pearls, beads, quills, and sequins.
hem	The edge of a piece of cloth or clothing which has been turned under and sewn.
over-sewing / over stitch	A stitch made over an edge or over another stitch.
running stitch	A simple needlework stitch consisting of a line of small even stitches which run back and forth through the cloth without overlapping.

Hand Stitching

Hand stitches have many uses. Before the sewing machine, garment-making was done exclusively by hand. However, in today's home sewing world of sophisticated sewing machines, few garments are made entirely by hand. However, many home-sewn and custom-made garments continue to have some type of hand stitching used primarily as finishing techniques (hemming, securing fasteners, etc.). Thus, knowing and understanding the proper stitch to use is important to the item's appearance.

Depending on the stitch and its use, some techniques require a double thread (sewing on a button, or securing hooks/eyes and snaps), but most are worked with single thread. A relatively short length of thread is strongly recommended. A thread that is too long can become tangled easily and will tend to fray and break. Many sewing experts recommend using thread no longer than 18 to 24 inches. It is always important to select the appropriate thread and needle for the fabric and the task.

A well-made hand stitch will:

1. be secured at the beginning and ending with no loose threads.
2. have a uniform length.
3. be invisible on the outside of the garment.
4. be neat on the inside.
5. have knots or thread ends between the fabric layers or hidden within construction details.
6. consist of an appropriate thread type for the stitch, fabric, and task.
7. be smooth and not create puckers on the right or wrong sides of the fabric.



Running Stitch

Pros - simple, quick, good for gathering
Cons - not very secure, not decorative



Over Stitch

Pros - simple, can stop fraying edges
Cons - difficult to get stitches even, can only be used on edge



Back Stitch

Pros - strong and secure, good for securing stuffing
Cons - time-consuming



Blanket Stitch

Pros - decorative
Cons - can only be used on edge, time-consuming



Home Learning Suggestions

1. Create your own Harry Potter cross stitch (there are lots of great ideas and patterns online).
2. Practise your sewing skills by making a felt owl.
3. Design and make another prop for the Harry Potter films, such as a clay goblet, model of Hogwarts Castle, light-up wand or sorting hat.

