

Springtime on Neptune: Astronaut Weavings

Objectives

- Students will be able to list several traditional African textile types.
- Students will be able to discuss the origins and meaning of 2-3 textile examples.
- Students will be able to define Afrofuturism and discuss its influence today.
- Students will be able to name several artists, musicians, and writers working in Afrofuturism.
- Students will be able to design and create their own Afrofuturistic fabric swatches, assigning meaning to each color used.

Grade Levels 6th-8th

Vocabulary and Terms

Afrofuturism, weaving, textile

Resources

[Ted Talk](#) great for teachers to learn more about the genre
Great short [video](#) about Afrofuturism geared toward children
How Black Panther is bringing [Afrofuturism](#) to the mainstream
[Cardboard looms](#)

Materials

Metallic ribbon, yarn, glittery pipe cleaners, wire

Procedures

1. Introduce Afrofuturism to class through videos so that the voices from the movement are the ones explaining it to students.
2. Students will observe and discuss traditional African textiles and the process of creating them. There are many traditional textiles to choose from to introduce to students: kente cloth, barkcloth, akwete cloth, or adire are just a few. Discuss the meaning behind the color, pattern, and origins of clothes, if possible.
3. Students will sketch out ideas for 'futuristic fabric' and the purpose of the fabric: clothing, blankets, shelter, etc. The more imaginative, the better! Students can assign meaning to the colors and materials chosen through writing.

4. Using cotton string, students will warp their looms first, paying attention to even tension. Students will use all weft material to weave.

