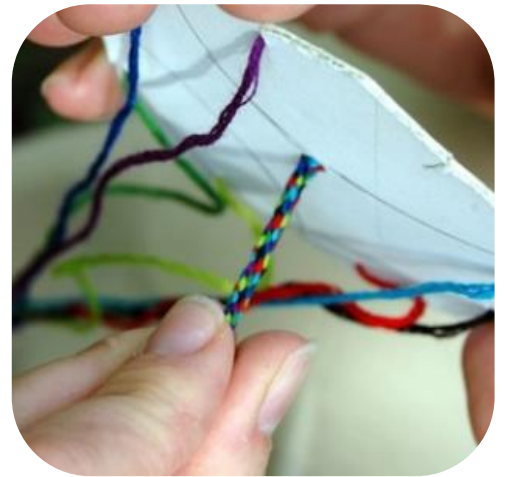




Craft 1: Viking Cord Winding

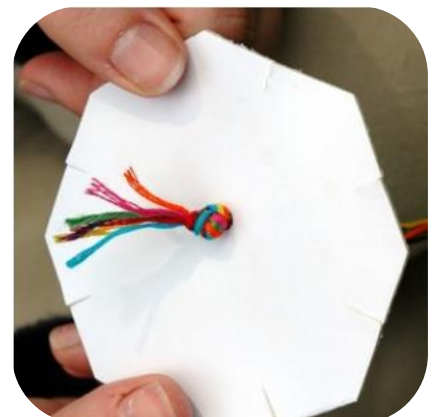
Cords have been made for many thousands of years, using yarns from woody plant fibres and fine yarns like wool and silk. One method for making cords was using a cord-winding tablet. It was used by the Saxons and Vikings. Try our experiment to have a go yourself!

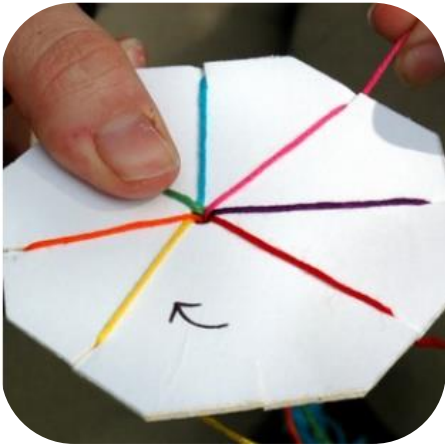


You will need to set up your craft. Use the template at the back of this sheet to cut out an octagon shape, trace onto a firm card and cut the slots and ask an adult to poke a hole through the middle.

Step 1:

Choose 7 different colours of yarn about 50cm long, you could use some of the same colour to see what happens to your design. Tie them in a knot at the end and pull the knot through the hole in the centre of your tablet.





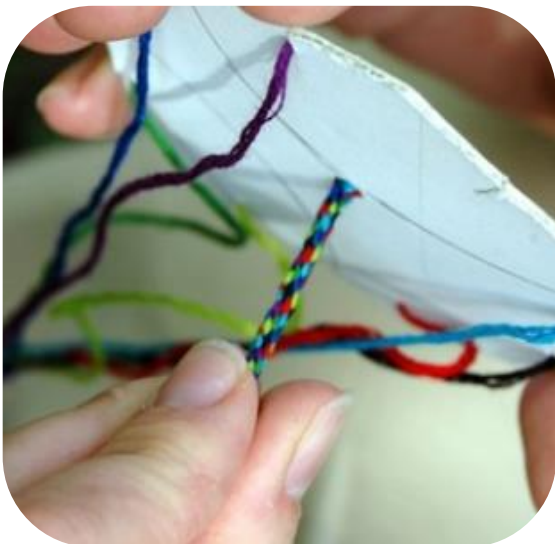
Step 2:

Turn your cord-winding tablet back over, and put one thread into each slit. It doesn't matter what order the threads go in. You should have one empty slit left over. Draw an arrow onto your tablet to show which way you will turn it when you start to make your cord.

Step 3:

Hold your tablet horizontally so that the empty slit is facing you and the threads are hanging down. Count back (in the opposite direction from your arrow) three slits. Take the thread from that slit and move it over the two threads in between, and tuck it into the empty slit facing you.

Now turn your tablet in the direction of the arrow until the new empty slit is facing you. Countback another three slits and move the thread over into the empty slit. Keep repeating this process. Remember to always turn your tablet in the same direction.



Step 4:

Your cord will be emerging from the underside of your tablet. It is important to keep on gently pulling the cord through from the underside. The threads will also get tangled very easily, so it is a good idea to run your fingers through them regularly to avoid getting them in a knot! When your cord reaches your desired length.

When your cord has reached the required length (or when you have nearly run out of loose threads), remove the seven threads from the slits and pull the cord through the hole from the underside. Tie the loose strands into a knot and trim the ends into a neat tassel. You now have a piece of cord perfect for a friendship bracelet or even shoelaces!

