Paper Weaving Placemats

Supplies Needed:

- Coloured paper (a firmer construction paper works better)
- Scissors

History:

Weaving is considered one of the oldest surviving crafts in the world, dating back to approximately 12,000 years ago! The process of weaving is the interlacing of two or more sets of strands of fibres at right angles to produce a useful material. Early looms held a set of horizontal threads in place, called a warp, while weft threads created a simple over, under pattern. Looms improved over time and became more complex allowing for more intricate patterns and designs.

How To:

For this craft you will need one large piece of coloured paper (that will act as your warp), and several strips of coloured paper (that will act as your weft). The strips can all be the same colour, but should be a different colour than your large piece of paper. You will need a pair of scissors too.

1. Take your large piece of coloured paper and fold it in the middle, reducing the length by half.
2. Take your scissors and starting at the fold, about 2.5 cm from the edge, cut a straight line, stopping about 2.5 cm from the edge of the paper. Continue making cuts along the fold, leaving space between, until you reach the opposite end. Open the placemat up.
3. Cut several strips of a different colour paper. They should be about 2.5 cm wide, and as long as your placemat is wide.
4. Starting at the left side of your placemat, take one of the strips and weave it through the cuts in your placemat, first going over then going under, then over, then under, all the way to the edge of your placemat.
5. Take a second strip of paper and beginning beside the first, go through the cuts in your placemat in the opposite direction you did with the one beside it, first under than over and so on until you get to the edge of your placemat. Repeat
6. Repeat with the remaining strips of paper until the placemat is full. Congratulations! You're a weaver! You can weave placemats for any occasion, just change the colours of paper you use.