

**Visual Analysis:**

Analyze the geometric patterns and colors of Brochalo-inspired weavings, interpret their cultural significance and create a personalized woven mat that reflects your identity through symbols and design.

**Interpret (10 minutes)**

Observe the images of the woven mats and the Borchalo rugs in the article. Look closely at the colors, symmetry and repetition.

Complete the 3-column table below:<sup>1</sup>

Details From Image	Interpretation	Cultural/Emotional Meaning

Questions to guide observation:

- What stands out most about the patterns and color combinations?
- How do the shapes and symmetry affect the feeling of the piece?
- What ideas about family, nature or identity might these designs represent?

## Integrate (10 minutes)

Connect what you see to the article:

- How does weaving reflect companionship and solidarity among the Borchalo weavers?<sup>2</sup>

- How do the repeating geometric symbols link to nature or spiritual traditions?<sup>3</sup>

- Choose one theme in the article—heritage, identity or resilience—and explain how it is expressed in these designs?<sup>4</sup>

### Apply 10 (minutes)

Create Your own woven mat inspired by Borchalo designs. Follow the steps below.

**Step 1:** Gather materials (3 different colored sheets of construction paper, a ruler, scissors, glue or tape).

**Step 2:** Cut 9 strips of one color of construction paper. Use a ruler to create strips one inch (2.5 cm) wide and 12 inches (30 cm) long.

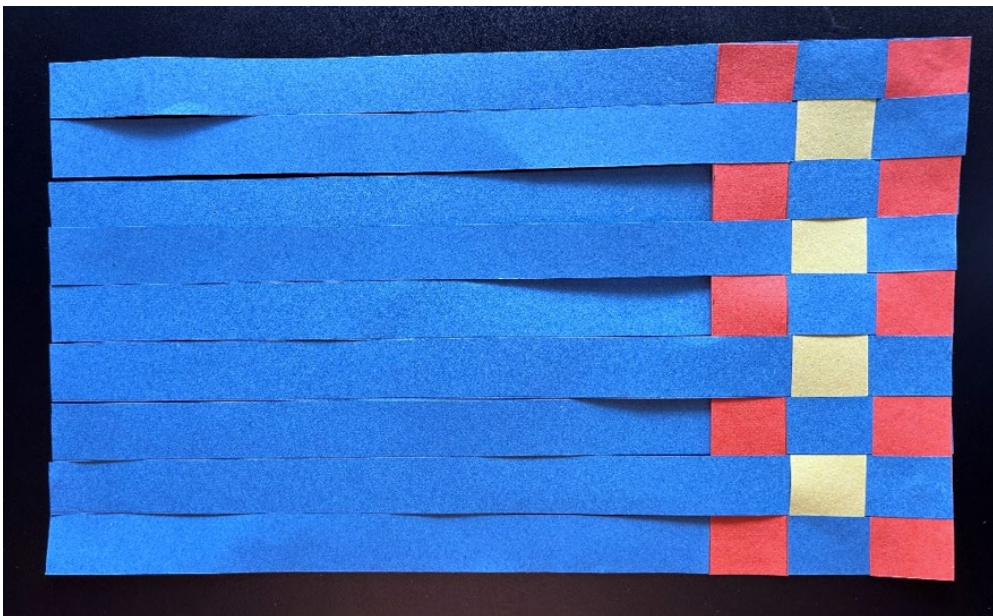
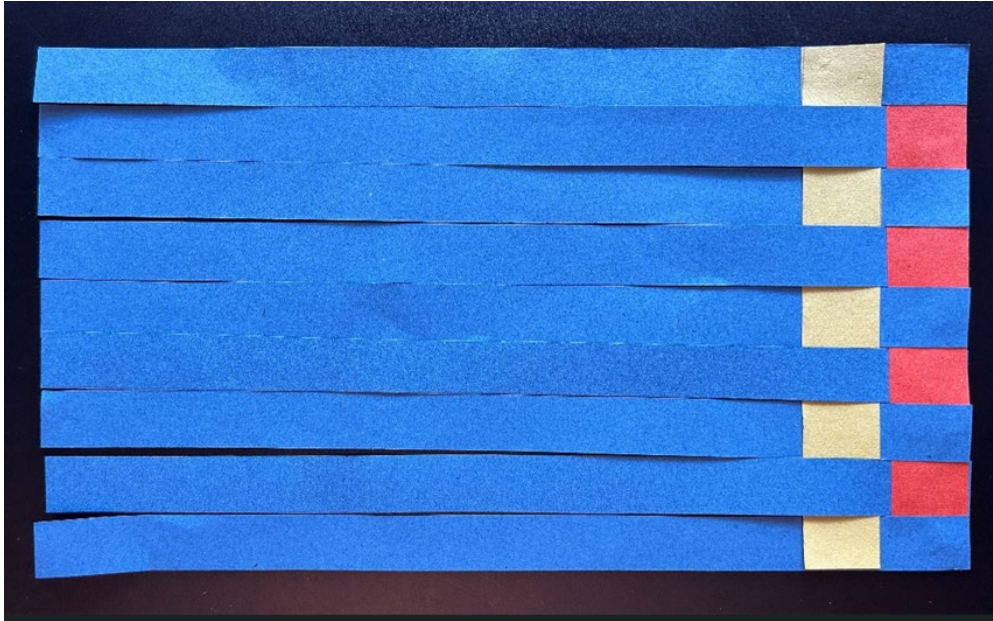
**Step 3:** Cut 6 strips of a second color of construction paper. Use a ruler to create strips one inch (2.5 cm) wide and 9 inches (22.5 cm) long.

**Step 4:** Cut 6 strips of a third color of construction paper. Use a ruler to create strips one inch (2.5 cm) wide and 9 inches (22.5 cm) long.

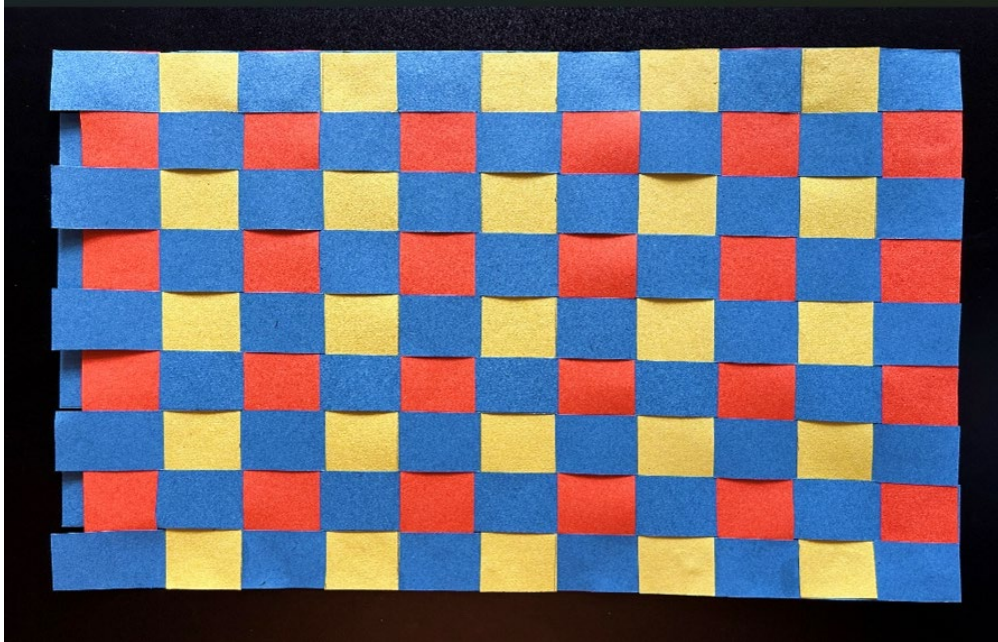
**Step 5:** Place the long strips (Step 2) horizontally and weave the short strips (Steps 3 and 4) vertically, alternating between the second and third colors. Glue or tape the ends of horizontal strips to one of the vertical strips, alternating top and bottom attachments.



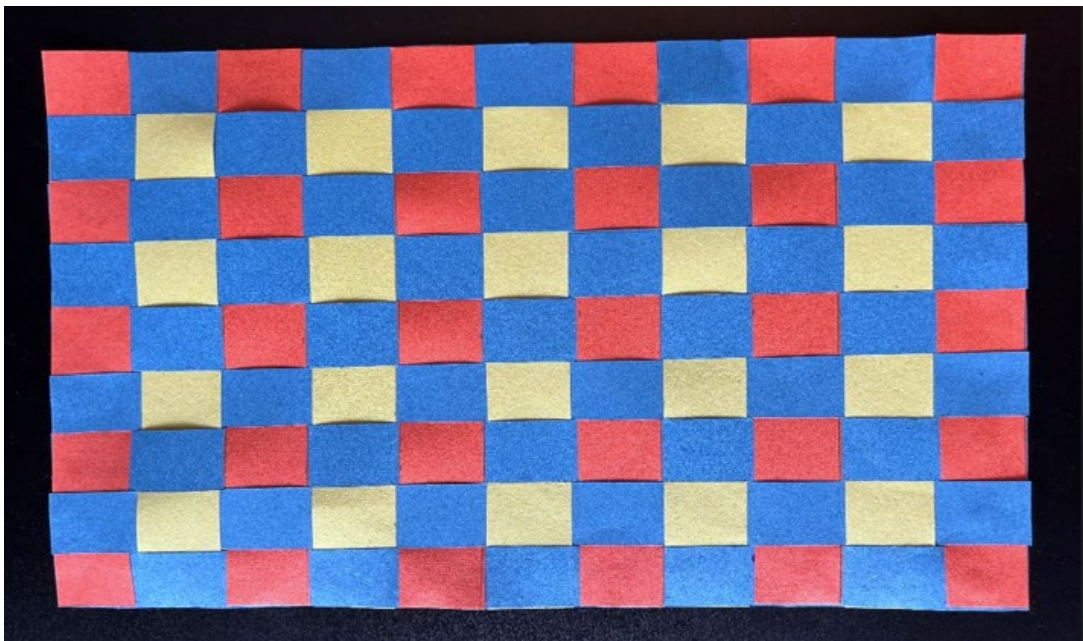
**Step 6:** Weave the remaining vertical strips by securing the top with glue or tape and weaving down through the horizontal long strips.







**Step 7:** Trim the bottom edges and secure with glue or tape. Your woven mat will be a rectangle measuring 12 inches (30 cm) long and 8 inches (20 cm) wide.



**Step 8:** Decorate your woven mat with drawn symbols, magazine cutouts, stickers and/or words that are important to you. Arrange them in a meaningful pattern.

**Step 9:** Write a paragraph explaining:

- What your woven mat represents
- Why you chose your colors and symbols
- How it reflects your culture, family, and/or personality

(This can be related to a coat of arms that uses colors, symbols, and patterns to represent characteristics, values and professions.)

**Common Core Standard(s) Met:**

**CCRA.R.7** Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

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1 Answers may include insights such as: Detail of simple, geometric patterns like the tree of life or medallions or ‘guls’ that represent family, fertility and prosperity. The patterns are often stamps or “tamgas” such as sheep that denote connection to a particular tribe. Repeating colorful images of stars and the sky defined by interconnected right angles and lines depict a past perception of nature and landscape or repeating squares suggest order and structure, reflecting harmony and unity in Borchalo communities.

2 The article mentions that weaving has traditionally bonded women in Kosalar, turning the activity into a social practice as much as an artistic one.

3 Symbols such as the tree of life and medallions (guls) take root in representations of growth, family and continuity, reflecting nomadic spirituality.

4 Heritage: The designs represent generations-old techniques and motifs; Identity: Colors and patterns reflect Azerbaijani cultural identity within Georgia; Resilience: Maintaining handwoven traditions despite industrial and economic challenges shows perseverance.