

# Braiding

## BEAUTIFUL BRACELETS



Indigenous people use weaving to make many great things. For instance, the Iroquois weave **corn leaves** to make **sacred masks** and the Haida weave **spruce roots** to make **baskets** and cedar bark to make **hats**. Other well-known articles are also made by weaving or braiding, such as Inuit or First Nations **snowshoes** or the traditional Métis **sash**.

By using the weaving technique explained on the next page, **you too could make beautiful things**, such as **bracelets, headbands, belts or decorations**. If you persevere, you'll pick up the technique and your weaving will become increasingly beautiful.

**You'll need** four strands of embroidery thread in different colours, each strand about 1 metre long. Rank the colours in whatever order appeals to you. For your first attempt, however, we suggest you stay with the order in the example: yellow, blue, green and red.



1. Tie the four strands together at one end.

2. Firmly attach the knotted end to a table with sticky tape.

3. Lay the strands out flat, side by side, in the order of colour indicated above.

4. Take the first two strands — the yellow and the blue. Make a knot with the two strands by crossing the yellow over the blue while gently pulling up the knot just enough to tighten it (tighten it enough but not too much). Repeat this step with the next strand.

5. Taking the yellow strand again, repeat the same step (twice) with the green strand.

6. Still with the yellow strand, repeat the same step (twice) with the fourth strand, in this case the red one.

7. At this stage, you'll see that the yellow strand is now at the end (on the right) of the other three strands and that the blue strand is at the beginning, on the left.

8. Repeat steps 4–6 with the three other strands in this order: blue, green, red.

9. When all the strands have been woven and your yellow strand is back on the left, you must go through all the steps again until you get the length you want. For example, to make a bracelet 13 cm long, you will need to repeat all the steps four times. You can make necklaces, rings, belts, etc. As you weave, you can also slip one or more pearls into the middle. To make a wider piece of weaving, simply increase the number of strands.

