

# Pom Poms

## Best for Ages

6+

## Workspace

Flat indoor surface

## Is electricity required?

No

## Description

Pom poms are a fun, easy way to add decorative flair to your space! Whether you put them on a keychain, string them into a banner, or weave them into a rug, you're sure to use skills from your maker toolbelt when creating pom poms!

## Materials

- **Soft thread**--yarn, string, plarn, tshirt yarn
- **Rough thread**--thick yarn, twine, shoe lace
- **2" x 4" Rectangle**--cardboard, cardstock, thick mail flier, cereal box
- **Threader**--needle, paper clip, safety pin
- **Scissors**

## Concepts Explored

- Threading
- Upcycling

## What to Do

1. On the 2" side of your rectangle, cut a small slit.
2. Choose your soft thread and stick the cut end of the thread in the slit of your rectangle. This will hold your thread while you wrap.
3. Begin wrapping your soft thread around the 4" side of your cardboard. Don't wrap too tight! You'll need to get under the soft thread later on.
4. Wind the soft thread until it creates a thick bulge of thread.
5. Now, grab your threader and thread the rough thread around it.
6. Use your threader to push between the soft thread and the rectangle, from the bottom of the rectangle to the top.
7. Tie the ends of the rough thread into a knot around the soft thread and slide the soft thread off of your rectangle.
8. Tie another knot all the way around the soft thread creating loops on each side of the tie.
9. Cut the soft thread loops all the way around, being sure not to cut your rough thread.
10. Ta Da! Trim your pom pom to your desired shape.



# Pom Poms

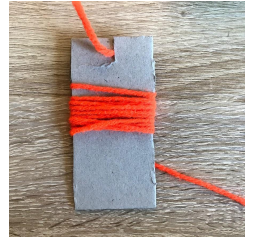
## Troubleshooting Tips

- I can't get my threader between my soft thread and my rectangle!

Try loosening your soft thread. If it's too tight, it will be difficult to wrap. If it's too loose, your pom pom will fall apart when you cut your loops. Try out different tightnesses to see what works best!



Looser



Tighter

What are other materials you can use to make pom poms?

What happens when you use rough thread for wrapping and soft thread for tying?

What frustrated you about making your pom pom? How did you overcome it?

## What is Happening?

- Pom poms became popular during the Great Depression because they were an economic embellishment. Instead of fancy fabrics, people could decorate with scraps from other projects.  
**Upcycling**, or giving materials new life by reuse, was happening long before we were born!
- Threading**, or passing thread through a material to transfer the thread more easily to the desired location, is a skill that we use every day when we put on our shoes or pull back and forth the shower curtain!

## Taking it Forward

- Connecting this activity to the real world:**

Do you have any pom poms in your home? Look at your clothing, your bedding, or anywhere else that includes decoration around you.

- If you like this activity, you'll also like making [plarn](#) and [journals](#)!**
- Learn more about this activity at your local library:**

*Fabric, Paper, Thread: 26 Projects to Stitch with Friends* by Kristen Sutcliffe

*Adventures in STEAM: Materials* by Claudia Martin