

We Are Textile Designers: Christmas Tree Gnomes.

Key Knowledge

Learn this information

Properties of suitable materials:

Felt: A strong material made from either natural or synthetic fibres, constructed by matting and pressing fibres together.

Fibre: A fibre is the smallest visible unit of any textile product. Fibres naturally occur in both plants and animals.

Thread: Light, thin and soft. Regularly used due to being a cheap and affordable material.

Features of a good quality, functioning Christmas Tree

Gnome:

To be able to hang independently on a Christmas tree. To resemble a gnome and be bright with Christmas detailing that draws in the viewer.

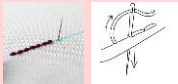


Stitches:

Running stitch (simple stitch consisting of a line of small even stitches)



Backstitch is a simple method of sewing with overlapping stitches to create the appearance of a continuous line on the fabric.



Blanket stitch is a stitch used to reinforce the edge of thick materials.



Keys Skills

Practice and perform these skills

Analyse **existing products** to identify good, bad and preferred features.

Sketch and **annotate** both an existing product and own design using knowledge of what makes a good quality Christmas tree decoration.

Apply knowledge to design and make a good quality, functioning Christmas tree decoration with all three hand stitches used (**running, backstitch and blanket stitch**).

Cut fabric with scissors:

- 1) Put your thumb through the top hole.
- 2) Put your middle finger/fingers through the bottom hole.
- 3) Hold the fabric you are cutting in your other hand. Move the fabric rather than the scissors to cut around shapes.
- 4) Cut using the point of the V in-between the two blades. Small snips give a more accurate cut. Long snips work well on straight lines.

Thread a needle: Pass the thread through the eye of the needle using a slow, steady hand.

Tie off to secure thread: Pass needle and thread through fabric, don't pull it all the way through (leave a tail), push needle back through the side you just came through to make a loop, leaving the loop (hold with finger to keep it) bring needle back through fabric and sew through loop not once but twice.

Embroidering a pattern: on the reverse of your felt lightly mark on your pattern. Using a back stitch, follow the pattern ensuring you start and finish on the reverse side.



Attach decorations such as sequins and beads: If there is only one hole, you will need to use the same repeated direction (unlike a button), e.g. up, over the side and up again. Unlike the button, it does not have a function and therefore the thread can go over the side of the sequin/bead. Once secure, tie off.

Key Vocabulary

Understand these keywords

Felt - A cloth made of wool or other animal fibres that have been pressed instead of woven together.

Thread - A fine cord used in sewing, weaving, and the like. Thread is usually made of two or more fibres such as cotton twisted together.

Thread (verb) - To pass (something) through a hole or slit.

Running stitch - Simple stitch consisting of a line of small even stitches.

Backstitch - a simple method of sewing with overlapping stitches to create the appearance of a continuous line on the fabric.

Blanket stitch - a stitch used to reinforce the edge of thick materials.

Eye of the needle - The hole/slit in the needle.

Thread a needle - To pass a piece of cotton through the eye of the needle.

Tie off - Leave a tail, make a loop, sew through loop not once but twice. (To secure the thread at the end of sewing).

Pin - To temporarily hold fabric in place prior to stitching.

Fasten - To securely fix a decoration to a piece of fabric.

Decorations - Finishing touches to make the product look more attractive, including buttons, beads and sequins

Applique - pieces of fabric are sewn or stuck on to a larger piece to form a picture or pattern.

Embroidery - to decorate material with a pattern using thread.

Yarn - thick thread used for knitting, usually made of wool.

Pom-pom - a small woollen ball.