

## **Al-Sadu weaving: Rug Loom Craft**

Create your own woven rug using a simple loom. Learn how patterns and colors are used in traditional Al-Sadu weaving.

Color Themes: Red, Yellow, White, Beige, Black, Brown or Green  
(Choose at least 2-3 colors)

### **Materials:**

- Printout
- Felt strips (various colors, thick or thin)
- Cotton string (±20 inches)
- Cardboard (to the size of template)
- Scissors
- Glue stick / White glue
- Masking tape
- (Optional) Paddle stick or ruler

### **What is a Loom?**

A loom is a tool used to weave cloth and patterns.

- The vertical threads are called warp threads.
- The material woven across them is called the weft.
- The weft builds your design row by row.

### **Preparing Your Workspace**

Work on a clean, flat surface with enough space to move your tools comfortably.

### **Building Your Cardboard Tools:**

- Loom
  - Cut out the loom template
  - Glue it onto cardboard
  - Cut it out carefully
  - Ensure the cardboard grain runs vertically
  - Cut along evenly spaced notches at the top and bottom

### **History of Al-Sadu**

Al-Sadu means “horizontal weaving” in Arabic.

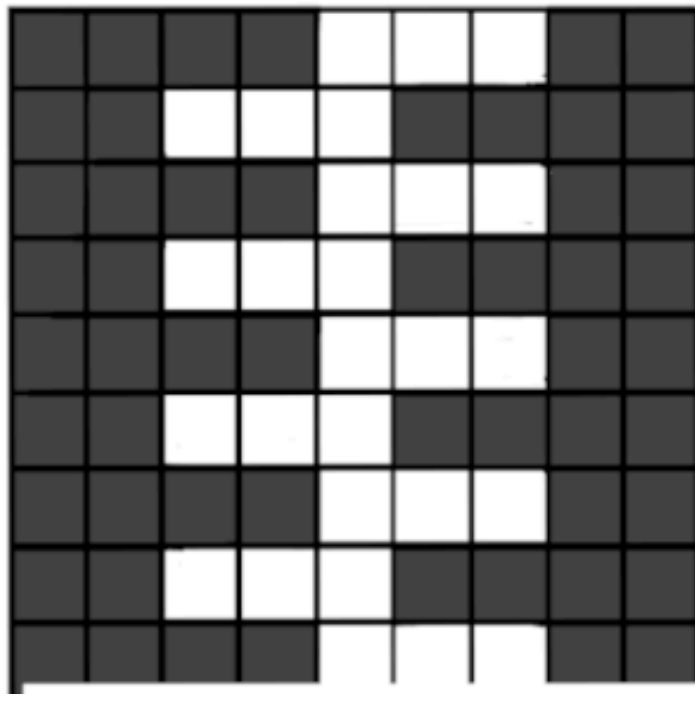
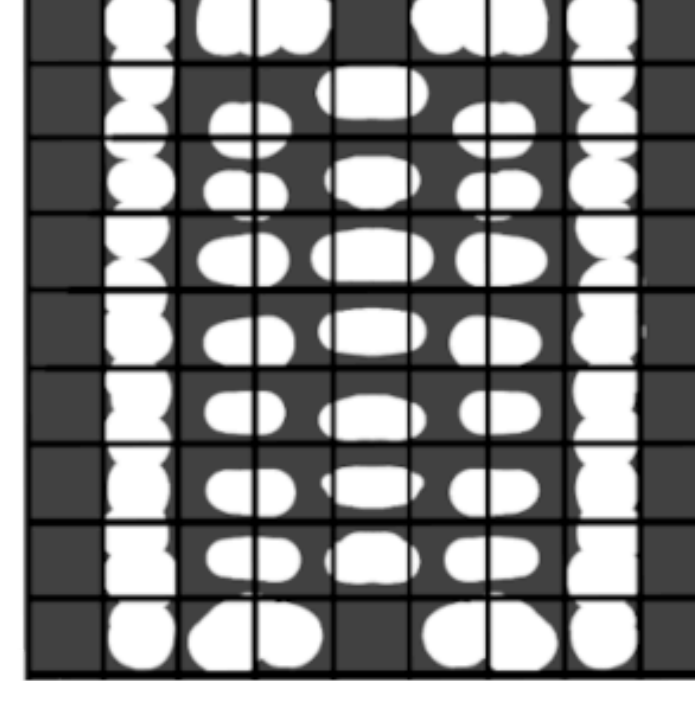
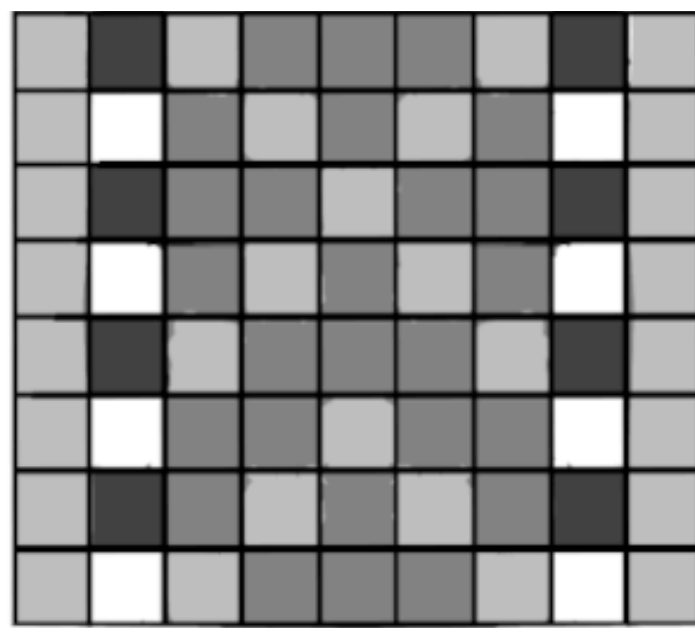
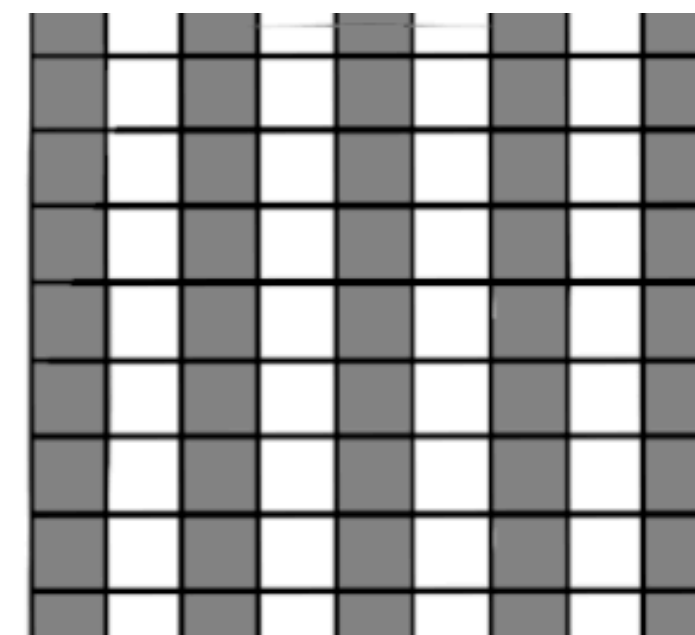
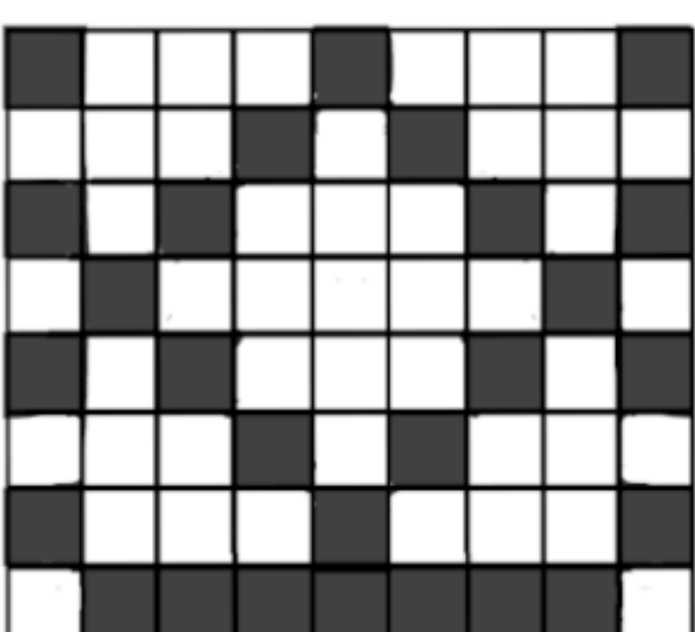
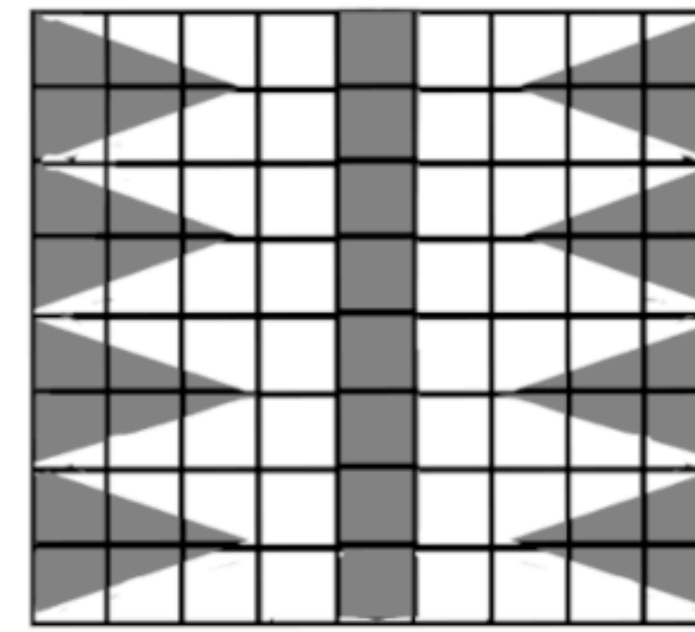
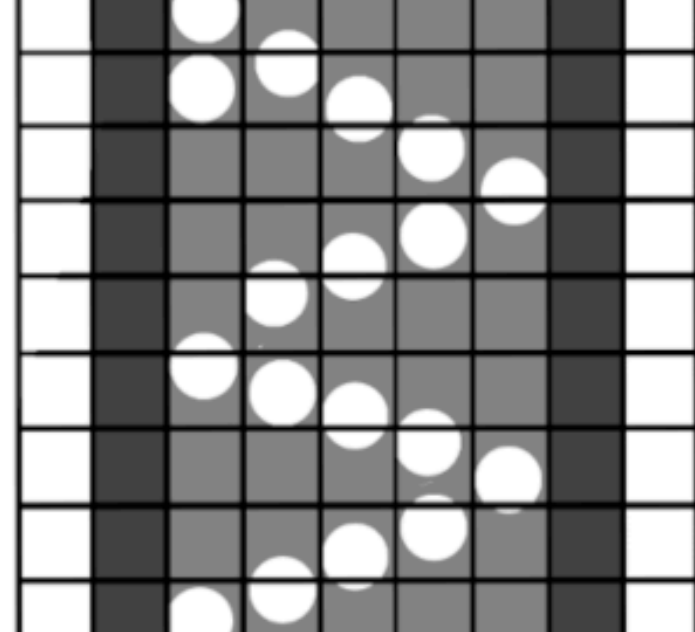
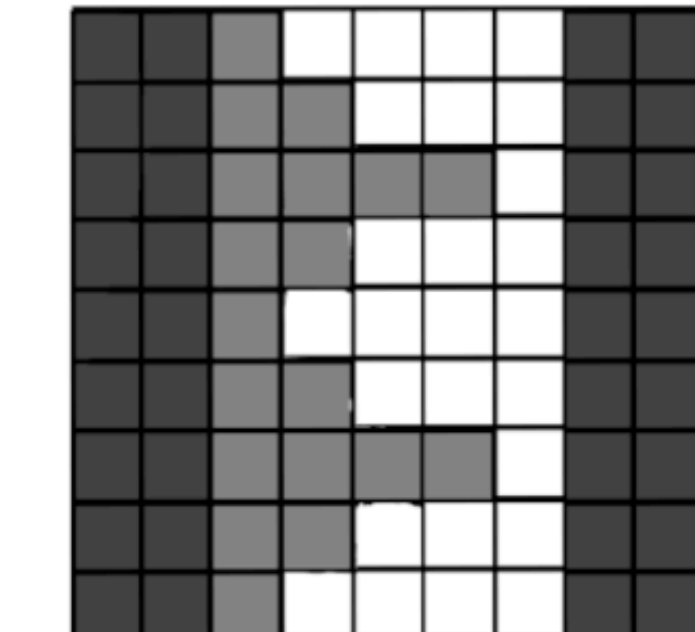
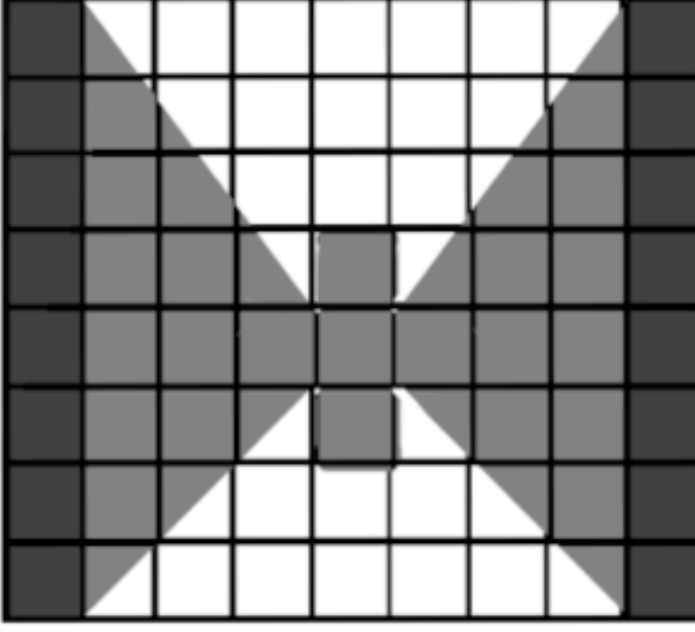
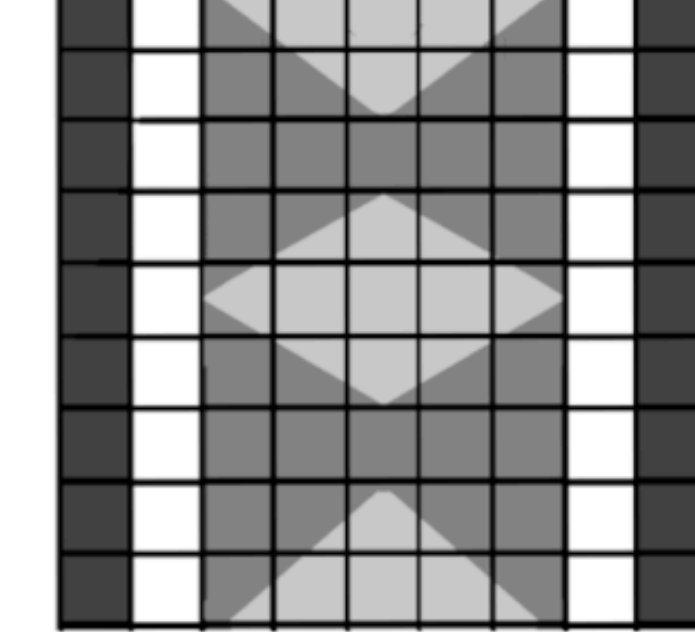
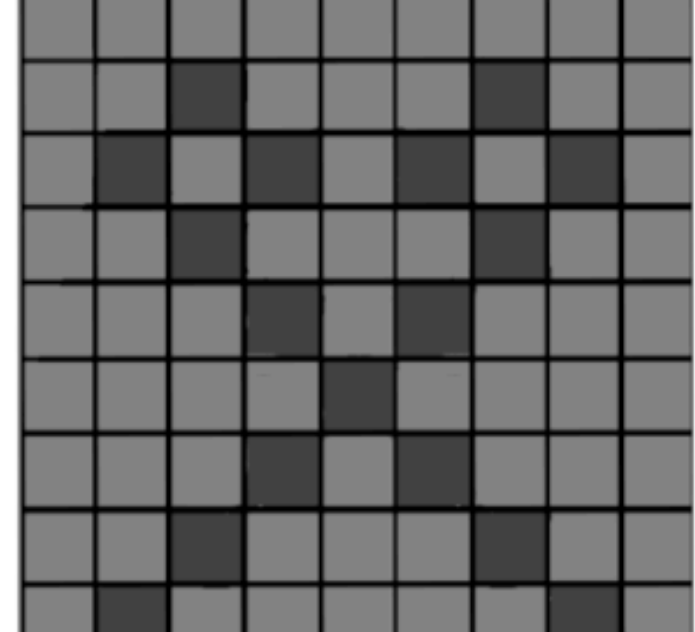
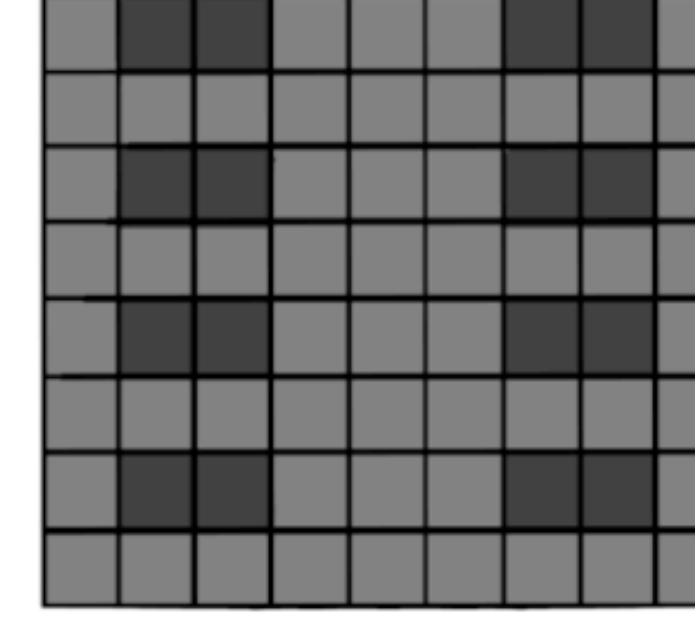
It comes from the Bedouin people of the Arabian Peninsula.

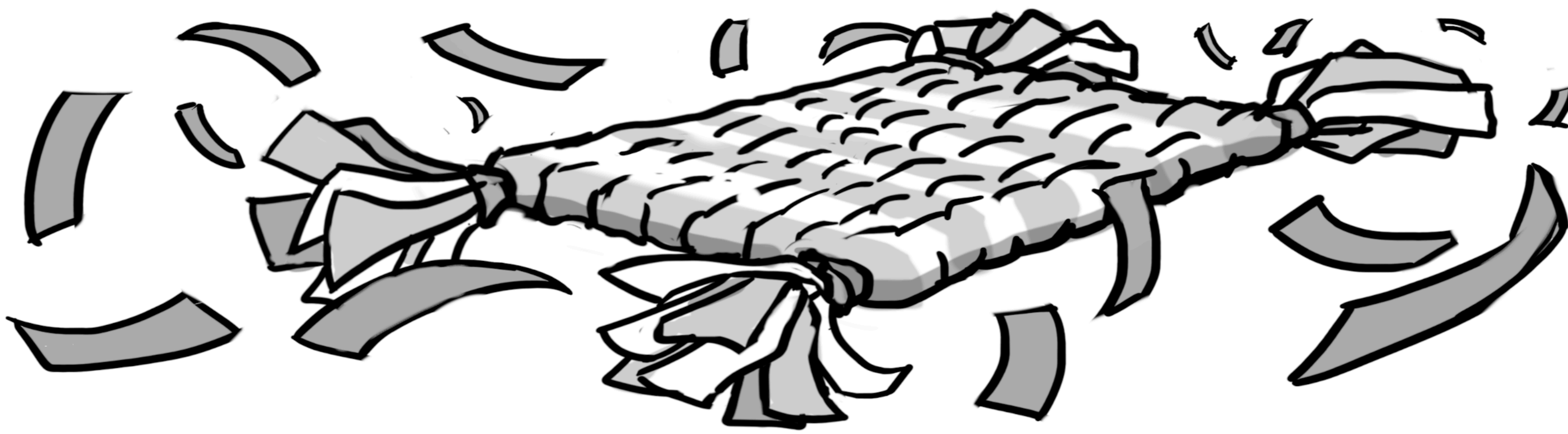
People used wool from animals like camels, goats, and sheep to make strong woven items such as tents and rugs.

Patterns were used to decorate and sometimes show meaning.

# Repeatable Pattern Chart: Al-Sadu and Al Saud cultural meanings

Use these to build your rug patterns.

<p>The Al-Saud Wasm: This "X" shape is a version of a tribal brand. It's like a family's signature or "logo" used to mark their animals and belongings.</p>		<p>The Seeds: These small alternating blocks represent desert seeds or grains, symbolizing growth and food.</p>	
<p>The Comb (Mishat): A very common traditional symbol representing the combs used to clean wool before weaving.</p>		<p>The Tent Poles: Simple vertical lines that represent the wooden poles that hold up the Bayt al-Sha'ar (House of Hair/Bedouin tent).</p>	
<p>The Eye (Uwaina): This diamond shape is meant to protect the weaver and the tent. It represents alertness and warding off bad luck.</p>		<p>The Mountains: These triangles represent the rugged peaks of the Hijaz or Asir regions.</p>	
<p>The Snake (Hayya): The zigzag path represents the movement of a snake or the winding tracks left in the sand dunes.</p>		<p>The Steps: These represent the "ladder" of community and the different stages of a journey across the desert.</p>	
<p>The Tree (Shajarah): This is the most famous Al-Sadu pattern. It represents the "Tree of Life" and is the centerpiece of the most beautiful weavings.</p>		<p>The Star (Najma): A nested diamond representing the North Star, which guided Bedouins through the desert at night.</p>	
<p>The Scissors (Maqas): This hourglass shape represents the tools used to trim the wool, showing the importance of the craft itself.</p>		<p>The Camel Tracks: These small dashes represent the footprints of a camel caravan moving across the sand.</p>	



### Threading the Loom

You will use one long cotton string to create your warp threads.

1. Tape the end of the string to the back of the loom.
2. Bring the string up to the first top notch.
3. Wrap it down to the matching bottom notch.
4. Bring the string behind the loom to the next notch.
5. Continue wrapping up and down across all notches.
6. Keep the string tight, but not too tight.
7. Tape the end on the back when finished.
8. You should now have straight vertical warp threads across your loom.

### Planning Your Design:

Use the pattern chart to guide your weaving.

- Each row on the chart = one row of weaving,
- Work from the bottom to the top.

You can:

- Follow the pattern
- Or choose your own colors

### Weaving Your Felt:

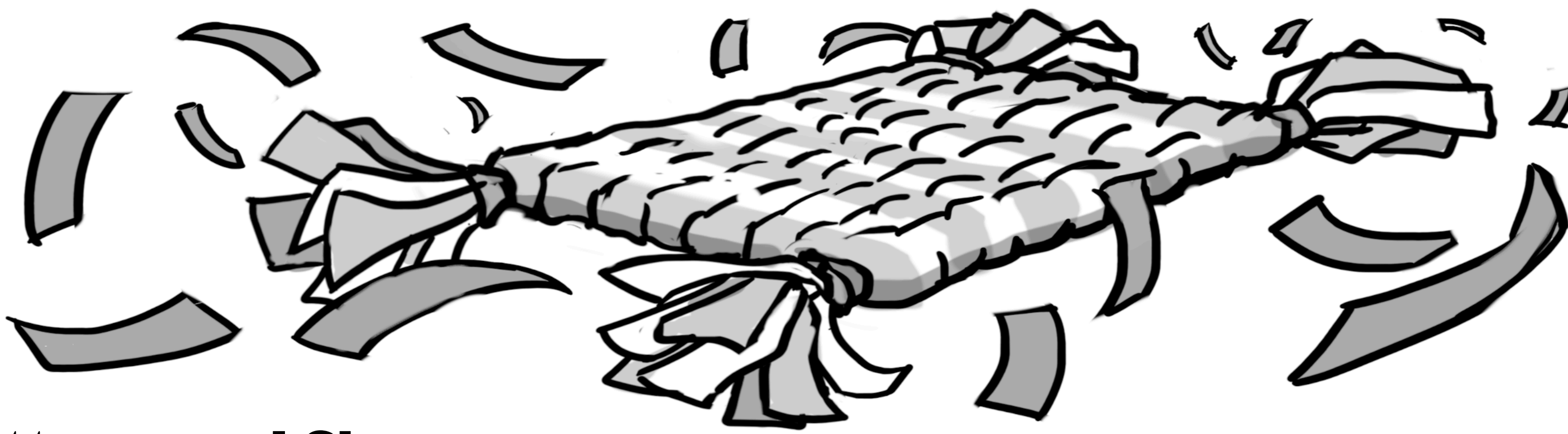
- You will use felt strips as your weft.
- Each row is made by weaving over and under the warp threads.

### Step-by-Step Weaving:

Start at the bottom of your loom.

Choose a felt strip color

- **Step 1: Weave the Strip**
  - Go over one thread, under the next
  - Repeat across the loom
- **Step 2: Position the Felt**
  - Pull the strip so it sits in the center.
- **Step 3: Press the Row**
  - Push it down firmly using your fingers or a ruler.
- **Step 4: Next Row**
  - For the next strip, go under, then over (the opposite pattern).
  - Repeat these steps for each row.



## Making Patterns and Shapes

You can create simple shapes by changing colors.

- Use different colored strips in different rows.
- Follow the pattern chart.
- You can also make small changes as you go.

Keep your weaving neat by:

- Keeping rows straight
- Pressing each row down

## Building Your Rug

- Keep adding rows until your loom is filled.
- Pack the rows tightly to remove gaps.

## Finishing Your Rug

1. Carefully cut the warp threads at the back.
2. Hold your weaving so it does not come loose.
3. Tie the threads together in pairs using double knots.
4. Repeat until all threads are tied.
5. Trim neatly if needed.

## Decorative Finishing:

### Tassels

- Tie thread ends together
- Trim evenly

### Braiding

- Divide threads into three groups
- Braid and tie with a small strip of felt

Tips for Troubleshooting:	Tips While Weaving:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If your weaving looks loose press rows down more firmly.</li> <li>• If you make a mistake gently pull out the felt and redo.</li> <li>• If threads move around adjust them and keep weaving.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep your tension even.</li> <li>• Don't pull too tightly.</li> <li>• Press each row firmly.</li> <li>• Follow your pattern chart.</li> <li>• Use a finger or object to track your place.</li> <li>• Take your time and follow each step.</li> <li>• You can follow the pattern exactly, or choose your own colors.</li> <li>• Your finished rug shows how weaving is built one row at a time.</li> </ul>