

FIBRE FELTING FUN Activity 3c

CULTURE 365 - GETTING CREATIVE SERIES
Presented in partnership with Dream Brokers

Wet-Felting Buttons With Melanie Rose

WHAT WE ARE MAKING TODAY

Wet-felting is the process of wetting, rolling and squeezing wool until the fibres mat together – like a dreadlock. Wet-felting can be used to create different objects such as beads, buttons or bowls. This process is used in different cultures around the world. In Mongolia, the people use the art of wet-felting to create their own homes or tents, called “yurts”.

Today, Melanie Rose will introduce you to the art of wet-felting and teach you how to make your own colourful felted buttons. When complete, you can use them on a jacket, on a hat, glued on magnets or used to decorate different types of accessories.



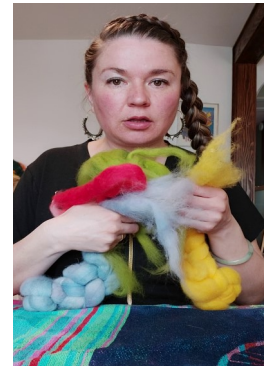
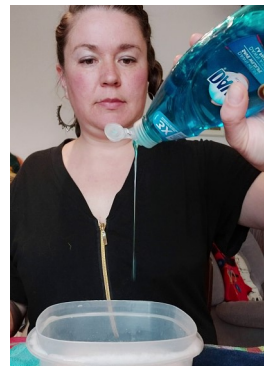
Supplies Needed:

Different colours of wool (4), plastic dish with hot water, dishwashing soap, scissors and a few towels from home.

STEP 1

Pour hot water into your plastic bowl, half way full. The hotter the better but don't burn your fingers.

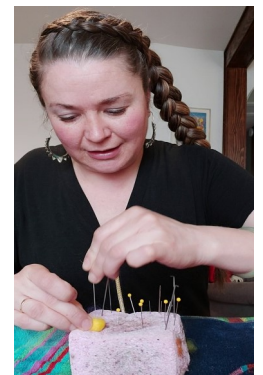
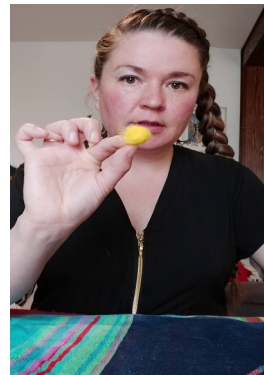
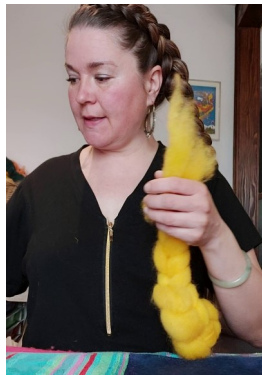
Add in cold water to cool down if too hot. Add soap to the water too. Remember: keep your unused wool away from the water.



STEP 2

Take a small piece of one colour of wool – pull from the end of the wool.

Roll the wool into a small ball the size of a bead. Wrap stray pieces around to hold it together as tight as you can get it. You can use your needle to poke wool into shape.



IMPORTANT NOTE: By attempting this activity, you accept responsibility for your actions and indemnify SaskCulture, Sask Lotteries, contracted artists and/or its partners, officers, directors, employees, contractors, agents, volunteers against all claims, actions, suits, demands, losses, expenses, costs or damages of every kind.



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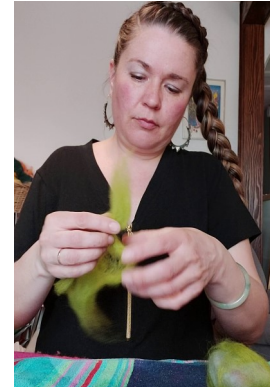
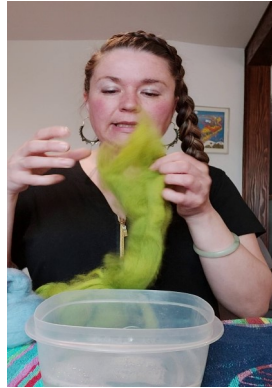
STEP 3

Take another colour of wool and spread it out to create a nest for you first ball of wool. Not too much, only enough to create a thin wrap around your first ball. Pull and tighten until it stays in place.



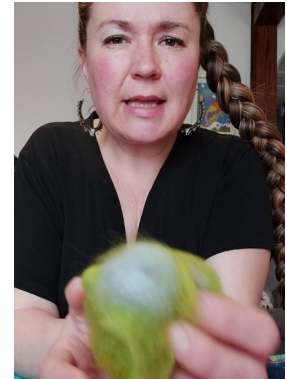
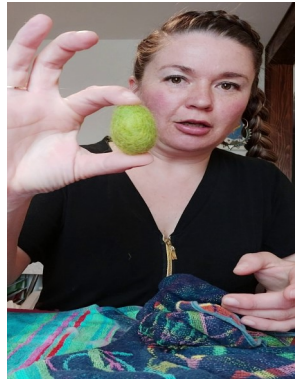
STEP 4

Select a third of wool and repeat steps above.
It doesn't have to be perfectly covered.
Tighten into shape of small ball.



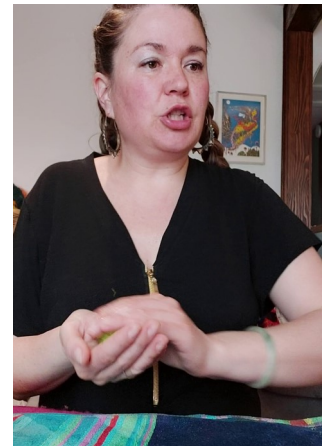
STEP 5

Take your fourth colour of wool and repeat steps above. You should have three colours of wool wrapped around your ball.



STEP 6

Dip your ball into the hot water. Don't dunk the whole thing, just dip it.

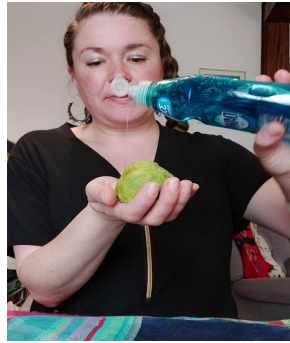


STEP 7

Roll the ball gently between your hands to form a ball.

STEP 8

Add a drop of dishwashing liquid the size of a dime to the ball.



STEP 9

Continue to roll in your hands. Dip into water again and continue to roll until you create a smooth round balls.

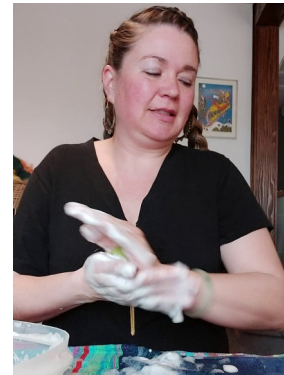
Your ball should be lathered up with soap. You can press harder on the ball now. Squeeze and roll the ball more vigorously. You want to get the water and soap deep into the middle of the ball.



STEP 10

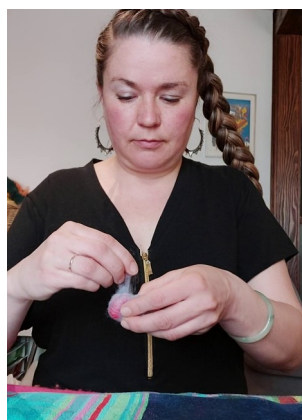
If you can pull fibres from the outside of the ball, it's not ready yet. Keep rolling and dipping in hot water.

If the ball is not forming a round ball, add some more wool on the outside and continue the process of rolling and dipping.



STEP 11

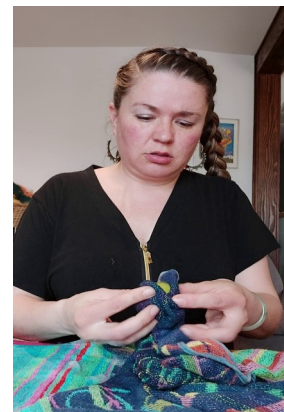
Your ball should be the size of a big button or bead. It should be harder but still squishy between your fingers.



STEP 12

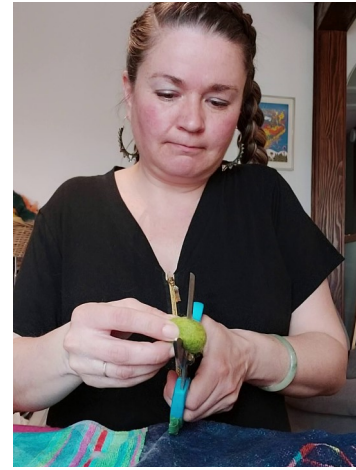
Rinse off ball in the sink in cold water.

Squeeze out the moisture from the ball with a towel. You can keep it round or roll it into an oval bead.



STEP

Once dry, take the scissors and cut the bead in half.



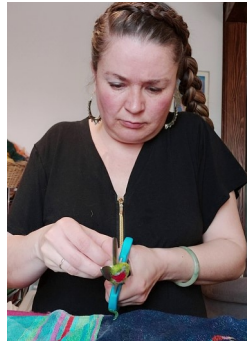
STEP 14

You should see all the different colours of wool you used inside.



STEP 15

Use your scissors to cut a coin-sized slice of the end of each half. Now you have two colourful buttons.



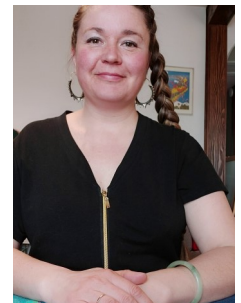
NEXT STEPS

Felting is used for more than just creating designs in fabric. The technique can be used to make beads, buttons and bowls. Try **Activity 3d - Wet-Felting Bowls** next.

Once you have completed your felted crafts, take photos of your completed works and send it to your Dream Broker. The artist would love to see your work, and SaskCulture would love to add it to a showcase of student expression.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Melanie Monique Rose is a visual artist from Regina, Saskatchewan, Treaty 4 Territory, and a long-time contributing member of **Sâkêwêwak Artists' Collective Inc.** She attended Kootenay School of the Arts with a major in the Fibre Arts in Nelson, B.C. and has exhibited her artwork in both group and solo exhibitions nationally. Her greatest honour was to receive the distinction of Excellence in Textiles in Dimension's 2013 touring show. In addition to showing her work, Rose has worked in the province as gallery facilitator, story-keeper, and art instructor for the Mackenzie Art Gallery and in addition teaches various workshops at both public and private institutions. She is currently a full-time mom to Meadow Rose, who was born in 2018, a caregiver, and an artist.



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