

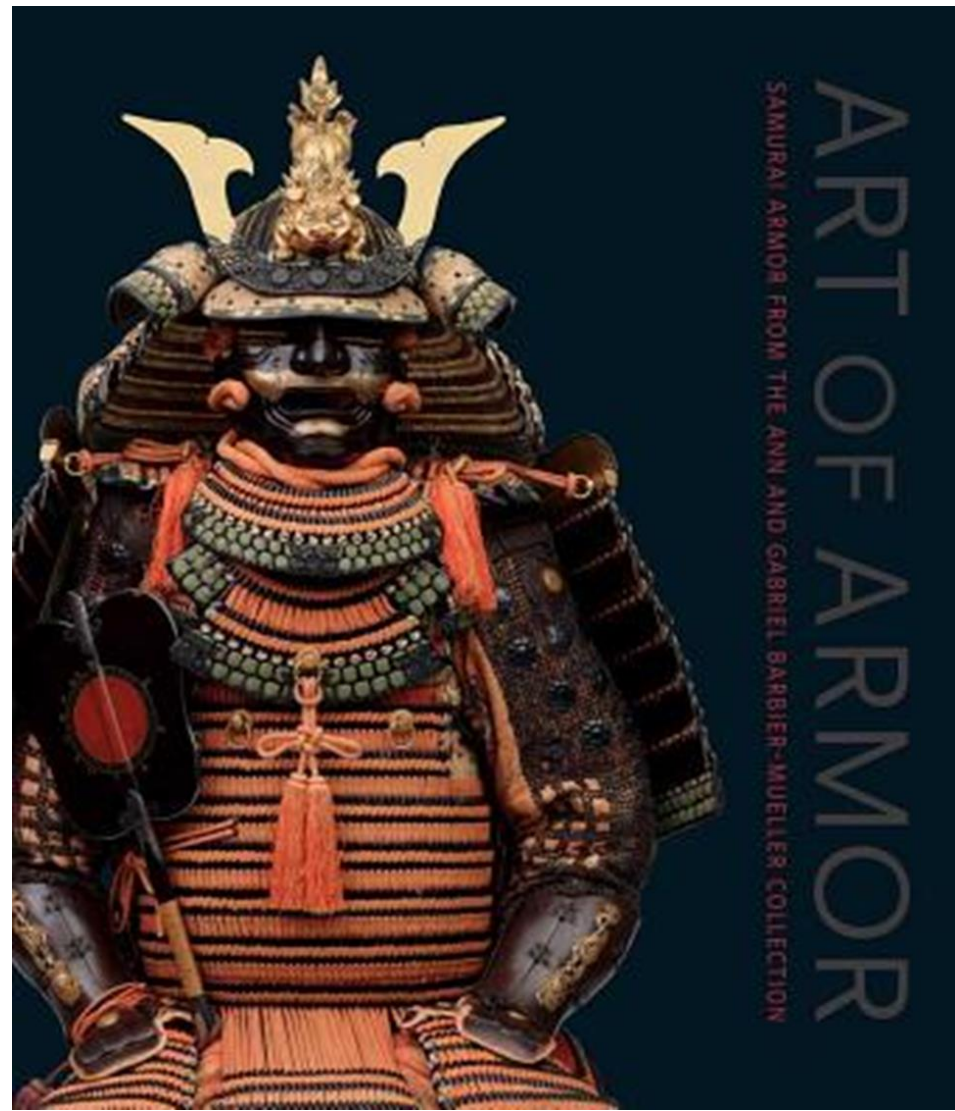
Weaving Project, Week 3

Samurai warriors, from Japan, were known for their bravery, loyalty and absolute skill in battle.

What is less well known is that they were also skilled hand weavers!

Their armour was made up of many tiny plates of leather, wood or metal which were held together with plaiting.

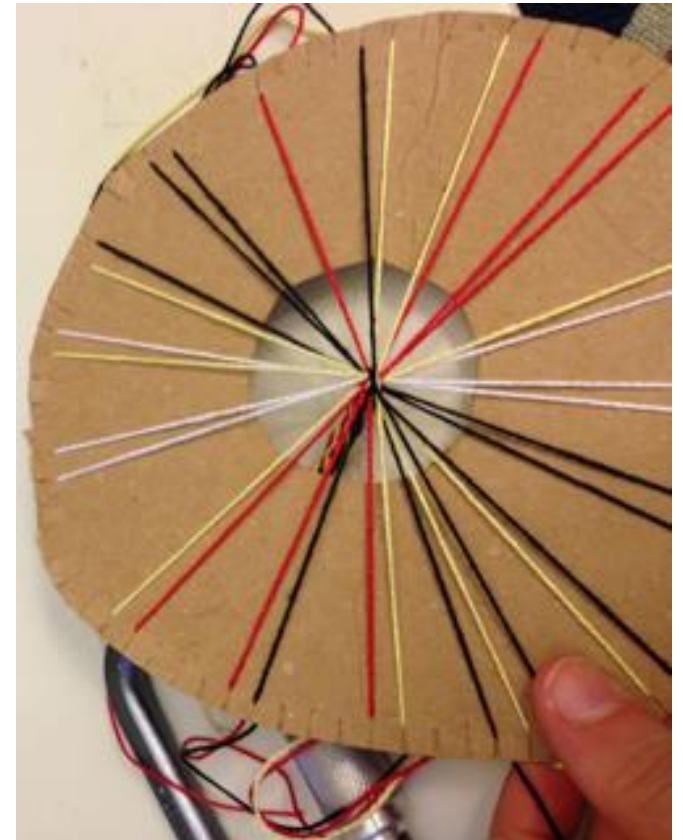
A warrior could repair his armour, using special plaits called kumihimo. These might have up to 64 threads, which the Samurai could weave together by hand!



Away from the battlefield, kumihimo braids would be made on a frame like this.



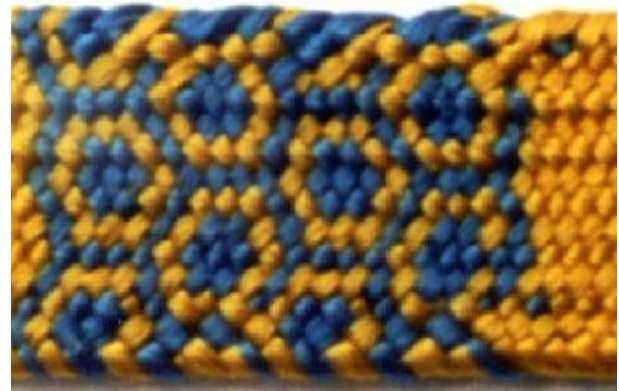
But we are going to be getting out the trusty cardboard again to make them on a frame like this!



The tiny weaves could be very detailed bands like these...



... or a simpler cord like these. We will look at one of this type this week.



So for instructions for this week, I'm going to direct you to this link, as I think it will be easier to watch someone instead.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYU9mSua8zc>

These braids are super easy to make – we made them at Albert Bradbeer a couple of weeks ago, and it was a lovely activity, sat out in the sun and weaving away!

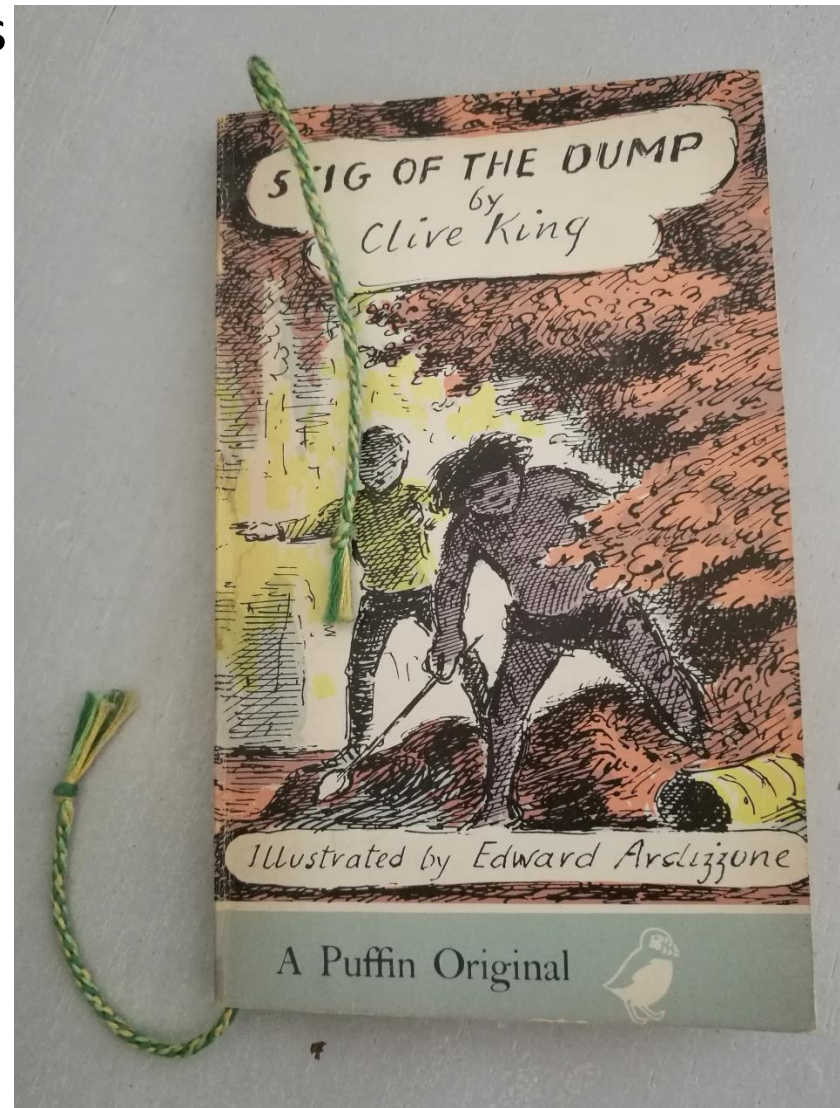
To get started you need:

- * A small piece of thickish cardboard, like we used for our weaving plates last week
- * Scissors, pencil and something round to draw round
- * Wool (for a thick band) or embroidery thread (for a fine band)



Once you have mastered the basic weave, you can look on-line for tutorials for more complicated patterns, cutting more notches into your cardboard disc.

If you don't want to wear the braid, then cords made with wool can be used for all different purposes.



Cords made with embroidery thread (like the ones we used for cross-stitch), make great bookmarks! Have you finished Stig yet?

Modern kumihimo threads are real works of art, made using just your fingers and lots of practise – carrying on a tradition over 800 years long.

