



Educational workshops offer (2018)

Association for the Promotion of Old Crafts and Culture “Wici”

wici.org.pl, facebook.com/stowarzyszenie.wici

contact: info@wici.org.pl

Lodz, Poland

Authors:

Anna Raczkowska, president, educator, a.raczkowska@wici.org.pl

Emilia Pawłusz, board member, educator, e.pawlusz@wici.org.pl

Anna Kepa, board member, educator, a.kepa@wici.org.pl

Idea

The main aim of our workshops is to engage visitors of living history events and sites in hands-on entertaining activities, through which they will remember their visit as a worthwhile experience. We want to bridge the gap between the public and reenactors by creating workshops understood as spaces of interaction, communication and learning through doing (in contrast to passive observing).

For whom

All Museum visitors with a focus on activities for children.

Format

- 1) open ongoing workshops for museum visitors in a designated educational space;
- 2) special workshops with earlier sign-up participation.

Themes

1. Viking Age costume and decorations
2. Toys and play
3. Household activities

Materials

We provide materials and tools such as hand carved wooden stamps, embroidery needles and yarns, naalbinding needles, looms and rigid heddles, weaving tablets.

Notes

We will be happy to discuss and amend the offer according to the needs and resources of your institution. We are very open for including other reenactors and crafters in our educational activities. The pictures are included for illustrative purposes only.

I. VIKING AGE CLOTHING AND DECORATIONS

Medieval embroidery

This workshop explores the history and meaning of embroidery in early medieval Europe. Participants will learn basic embroidery stitches and tools. They will have the opportunity to choose motifs from the Viking Age textiles and objects and try their hand at the craft. Required materials: wool and/or linen fabric, yarns, embroidery needles for children.



Braiding leather bracelets

This workshop introduces the participants to the basics of leather work. The idea is to give the participants the chance to experiment with leather manually and create an object which they can take home and use afterwards. During the workshop the participants learn how to make simple braids with leather stripes. Required materials: pieces of leather.

Colouring sheets

Colouring is a simple, yet powerful task to spontaneously engage almost all children with a particular theme. We offer colouring sheets through which children will get to know Viking era men and women's fashion and the meaning of colours and symbols on it. Required materials: pencils.



Making Viking jewellery

This activity can include either simple beading of Viking Age necklaces or can be extended with sculpturing turtle brooches from salt dough. This workshop needs access to oven and certain time for preparing and baking the dough so it works better with pre-registration. Required materials: salt, access to water, oven, simple knives.

Single needle knitting

Naalbinding is an ancient craft of binding yarn, older than crocheting and knitting. During the workshop the participants get familiar with different types of historical stitches (Oslo, Mammen, Finnish stitches) and learn their basics. Required materials: yarn, naalbinding needles (wooden or bone)



II. TOYS AND PLAY



Doll making

During the workshop the participants can try their hand at making simple dolls and toys using yarn, pieces of leather, wood, and fabric. A self-made doll is not only a unique souvenir but a way to develop child's imagination and manual skills. Required materials: yarn, scissors, fabric, leather pieces, wool.

Rune games

The workshop introduced the Viking runic alphabet – its history and symbolic meanings for the Norse people. It consists of drawing one's own run stone, writing one's name in the runic alphabet and deciphering messages written in it.

Required materials: worksheets, pencils, paper.

Stamping on fabric or paper

Stamps are a great way to tell a story. During the workshop the participants use wooden stamps depicting symbols related to Viking life and mythology to come up with a story, which they tell on a piece of fabric. It is possible to use the stamps also in clay or salt dough. Required materials: stamps, fabric, textile paints, brushes OR stamps, acrylic paints and paper.



Painting Viking shields

This workshop invites the participants to step into a role of a Viking warrior or shield maiden preparing his/her shield with symbolic ornamentals. The shields can be wooden or from cardboard covered with a linen fabric/canvas.

Required materials: shields, paints, brushes.

III. HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES

Heddle or tablet weaving

In this workshop the participants learn the basics of weaving – the vocabulary describing the weaving mechanism and tools, the mechanism of weaving and the different types of weaving present in the Middle Ages. On weaving stands (tablet weaving and rigid heddle weaving) people can spontaneously experiment with creating a textile belt.

Required materials: weaving tablets, rigid heddle, yarn.



Natural weaving

The idea of the workshop is to explain the mechanism behind weaving. The participants build their own frames using branches. Next they tie up the warp threads using linen or wool yarn. For weaving they use yarns interchangeably with leaves, branches and flowers available in the surrounding. Weaving with plants takes less time and gives visually attractive results. It can also involve group work on one larger woven structure.

Required materials: yarn, scissors.

Making pan bread

This workshop involves gathering participants around a fireplace where they observe the process of making simple bread on a pan. They can try their hand at making the dough, rolling it with hand and placing on the pan.

Bread can be served with honey, jam or seasonal fruits.

Required materials: wheat flour, water, pan, optional dressings.



Hands-on clay workshop

During the workshop the visitor can create simple objects like small plates, bowls and cups. It can be conducted outdoors or indoors and no potter's wheel needed.

Required materials: clay, water.

About the educators

The Association for the Promotion of Old Crafts and Culture “Wici” or simply “Wici” (an old Polish term for sudden, important message) is a project by a group of enthusiasts of culture, arts and crafts of old wanting to share their passion with others. We want to promote and educate others about old and in many cases long forgotten techniques for production, arts and crafts. Wici” is an idea to combine the past and the present, older and younger generations as well as education and fun.

Get to know our past [workshops](#).

You are welcome at our online crafts [shop](#) with tablet woven bands, leather works, medieval clothing, naalbinding items and many other hand crafted items.



Anna Raczowska,

a.raczowska@wici.org.pl

Cultural project manager, designer and sculptor.

She runs her own artistic [studio](#) where she creates historical and theatrical costumes. Through her sculpture studies at Łódź Fine Arts Academy, she gained extensive experience in woodwork, working with clay, stone, bronze and other materials. She worked as a festival coordinator and workshop educator. She is a certified coach.



Emilia Pawlusz,

e.pawlusz@wici.org.pl

Researcher, educator and weaver.

Passionate about tablet weaving, medieval history and archeology, on which she writes her [blog](#). She worked as an education specialist in an art museum and researcher in museum projects about craftsmen and history. She has experience as a tourist guide and tour organiser. She holds a PhD in political anthropology and wrote extensively on heritage, folks singing and national identities.



Anna Kepa,

a.kepa@wici.org.pl

Anthropologist, photographer and art therapist.

While working in the UK as an assistant manager, she gained experience in finances, logistics, and human resources management. In Romania she worked as a cultural events coordinator and workshop educator. She is interested in naalbinding. As a qualified photographer, she revives classic techniques of photography. She also specialises in [living history photography](#).