



HISPANIC
HERITAGE MONTH

Folk Art Fabric Arpilleras

Arpilleras originated in Chile as an expression against injustice in their country. Many arpilleras made today come from Peru or other countries that reflect a scene of rural life in the Andes Mountains. They include trees, houses, animals, village people, rivers, and the sun. Using construction paper and different textured fabrics, we will create these three-dimensional quilts, or our own Arpilleras, that tell a story in all the little details!

1



Gather materials:

- Large Sheet of Construction Paper for Base
- Fabric Scraps (various textures, like felt or old clothes)
- Ribbon, Yarn, Trim or Pom Poms
- Construction Paper (various colors)
- Tissue Paper (various colors)
- Glue
- Scissors

2



Begin by building up the background scene using construction paper to create mountains and hills that stack one on top of another. Arpilleras often have a stacked landscape. Cut triangle top mountains or curved hills out of paper or fabric.

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3



Place the mountain and hill cut outs on the base paper and arrange them in different ways until you find one you like the best. Then, glue them down.

4



Add a body of water like a river or pond to your landscape. Tissue paper or fabric would work nicely, but you can use what you have and get creative.

5



Now we move onto smaller details like trees and houses. Cut squares and triangles for houses out from found scraps of textiles and paper. Cut out trunks and treetop shapes as well.

6



Place the houses and trees spread out on different levels of the landscape. Again, move them around until you're happy with the arrangement. Then, glue each one down one by one.



7



Focusing on the sky, add a blue background, white clouds, and a happy yellow sun. Crumpled yellow tissue paper or fabric can make a 3D sun!

8



Then, cut out and glue in people on the land and animals like llamas, sheep, and ducks. Here we can use pom poms for heads or animal bodies, fabric for dresses and clothes for the people, and yarn for smaller details.



9



Lastly, use any scrap materials you have to add tiny details like flowers, fruits, and vegetables in the trees and bushes. Or maybe add windows and doors to your houses. Be creative and add a few finishing touches!