Tangled Together: Engaging Urban Youth Through Fiber Arts

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Frida Kahlo, 1944. *Portrait of Doña Rosita Morillo*.


Coptic Socks, Egypt, c. 1000 CE.

Peruvian man knitting, undated.
Fiber arts are kinesthetic. They teach attention span and patience. They validate personal style and aesthetic. Fibers tie together home and school cultures.
Knitting and crochet are portable and cheap. Students can help each other and work as a team. Fibers are an accessible medium for students to gain mastery. Students see themselves as participants in the arts.
Make a slipknot. Put it on your finger like a jaunty little scarf.
Too cold!
Layer another scarf right over the top.

Too hot!
Pull the bottom one off.

Repeat.
Pull the tail through the last stitch. Lovely!
how to knit:
Hold the end of your yarn so it doesn’t slip.
Weave the yarn through your fingers, across and then back.
Weave across and back once more — two stitches per finger.

That’s too many!

Pull the bottom one over.

Repeat.
At the end, place the first stitch onto your second finger.

Pull the bottom one over.

Repeat.
Pull the tail through the last stitch.

Nice work!
Then what?

Extension projects for all this knitting:
Bind long loops with spare yarn.
Explore a variety of materials.

Create structure by sewing edges together.
Braid your knitting.