

TRAVERSE WALL ACTIVITY: “CLIMBER’S SPIDER WEB”

STUDENTS CREATE INTERESTING PATTERNS AS THEY CLIMB WHILE UNRAVELING A BALL OF YARN.



MATERIALS NEEDED:

Balls of yarn approximately 50-60 feet in length, one for each team



PRIOR TO ACTIVITY:

Divide the class into two-person teams. Give each team a ball of yarn that has been prepared prior to class and is comprised of about 50-60 feet of yarn.



THE ACTIVITY:

One partner will hold the ball of yarn while the other climbs on the wall. The non-climber will follow the climber as he/she moves around the climbing wall. The climber holds the loose end of the yarn in his/her hand and attaches (ties) it to the first hand hold he/she comes into contact with. As the climber progresses across the wall, the yarn is attached to each successive hand hold encountered. Students should be encouraged to be creative with their movement, i.e. occasionally backtracking to create geometric designs that resemble a spider's web. The activity ends when the supply of yarn ends.

One suggestion is to have the instructor tie off the yarn. This way the student can maintain a grip on the hand hold and not lose his/her balance in the process of creating the spider web.



NOTE:

We have suggested the use of hand holds only to create the web. If foot holds were also used, students would be required to reach down while being off balance. This risk factor should be avoided to ensure the safety of your students!