

PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS

Let's Make No-Sew Blankets !

A fun, creative way to give shelter pets the gift of warmth, safety and comfort.

APPROX. TIME

45 - 60 min / blanket

Could be faster

PLANNING NEEDED

Moderate

Gather material in advance

GRADE LEVEL

3rd Grade & Up

Adult help with scissors

BEST FOR

Solo or groups

Whole class, scouts, families

ANIMALS HELPED Dogs, Cats, Rabbits    — especially kittens — at your local shelter or rescue

Purpose

Animal shelters and rescues love fleece blankets for the pets in their care. Blankets are used for kittens to keep them warm and are a comfort to dogs and rabbits too.



Materials List

- ☐ **Fleece Fabric** — You'll need two pieces of fleece the same size to make each no-sew blanket. For kitty blankets start with an 18-inch or 24-inch square. Kitties don't care about the colors or prints, although animal prints look really cute! It's best to use two different colors or prints for each blanket. Fleece can be purchased or donated from craft or fabric stores or on line. You can buy individual pieces or buy a roll.
- ☐ **Scissors** — Sharp sewing or craft scissors to cut the fleece.
- ☐ **Ruler or a Yard or Meter Stick** — To mark the "cut to" lines on the fleece

Instructions

Blanket Size — Some shelters or rescues request specific blanket sizes, so check with your local organization if possible. Common finished sizes are 26" × 30" or 26" × 40". Because tying the fringe makes the blanket about 10 inches smaller than the starting fabric, begin with fleece pieces that are approximately 36" × 40" or 36" × 50". A few inches larger or smaller is perfectly fine.

1. Choose two different colors or patterns of fleece. One solid color and one print often look great together.
2. Place the two pieces of fleece together with the sides you want showing facing outward. Trim the edges so both pieces are the same size.
3. Cut a 5-inch square from each of the four corners.
4. Cut fringe on all four sides of the blanket, cutting through both layers of fleece at the same time. Make each fringe strip about the width of your finger and cut 5 inches in from the edge.

Teacher Tip: Place a yardstick or meter stick 5 inches from the edge of the fabric as a guide. This makes it easy to keep your fringe cuts even.

5. Tie the Fringe - Leave the blanket flat on your work surface with the fringe lined up. Tie the top and bottom fringe pieces together using balloon knots (the same knot used to tie off a balloon). Work your way around the blanket, tying one knot at a time.

Teacher Tip: Right-handed students may find it easiest to start on the left and work toward the right. Left-handed students may prefer starting on the right and working toward the left.

6. Fluff and Deliver - Shake out the finished blanket and trim any uneven fringe if needed. Your blanket is now ready to donate to a local animal shelter or rescue.

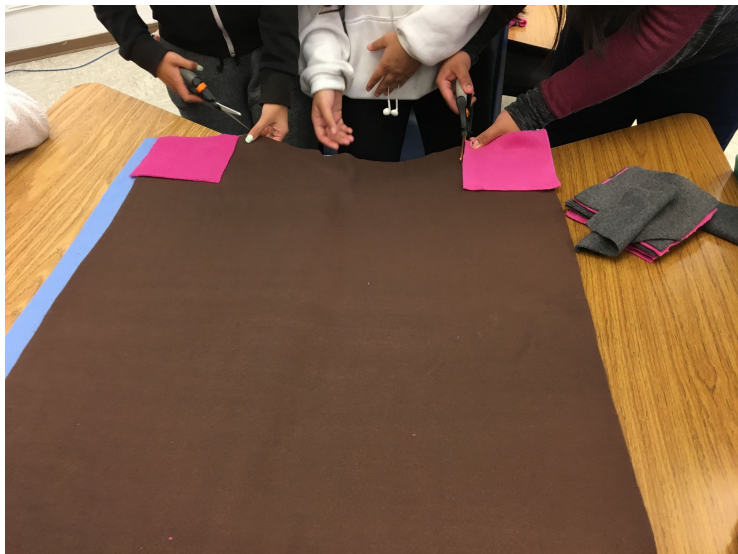
Standards Connections

Framework	Connection
Common Core ELA	Speaking & Listening — Students collaborate, give and follow multi-step directions, and explain the purpose of their completed blanket through discussion, presentation, or written reflection (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3.1, SL.4.1, SL.5.1; SL.3.4, SL.4.4, SL.5.4)
Common Core Math	Measurement — Students measure fabric, mark cutting lines, and cut fringe using standard units of measurement while practicing accuracy and estimation (CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.3.MD.B.4; 4.MD.A.1; 5.MD.A.1)
SEL Competencies	Social Awareness — Students demonstrate empathy for shelter animals. Responsible Decision-Making — Students make thoughtful choices about how to help their community and which shelter or rescue to support. Relationship Skills — Students communicate and collaborate effectively with peers to complete a shared goal.
Service Learning	Community needs identified (<i>comfort items for shelter animals</i>), meaningful hands-on service, blankets donated directly to a local shelter or rescue, and student reflection on the impact of helping animals.

Video

Title	URL
YouTube How to Make a Tie Blanket from Fleece	How to Make a Tie Blanket from Fleece

Project Photos

Project in progress	Finished Project
	

Reflection & Discussion Questions

1. In what ways do you think a soft blanket could help an animal feel more comfortable while staying in a shelter or rescue?
2. How did making a blanket for an animal you've never met make you feel? Why do you think acts of kindness like this matter?
3. If you could include a message for the animal receiving your blanket, what would you want it to say?

Extension Ideas

- **Blanket Math:** Measure the starting fleece and finished blanket. Calculate how much length and width were lost when the fringe was cut and tied, and compare the finished sizes of several blankets.
- **Add a Shelter Connection:** Create a short note, card, or tag to accompany the blankets explaining who made them and why. Students could also share what they learned about the animals the blankets will help.
- Document your project with photos and share on social media — tag **@pawsupprojects** and your local shelter.

Did you do this project?

We'd love for you — or an adult — to post your project on Paws Up Projects to inspire others.

pawsupprojects.org/post-your-project