

CPS SOURCE bySunday

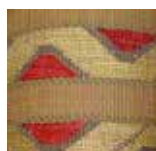
Baskets - look around your house and chances are you will find at least one basket. Maybe you have some fruit sitting in it, or maybe you have one filled with laundry. Baskets surround us in every part of our life and basket weaving is one of the oldest known crafts.

Museum collections show that Native Americans have been using basic techniques to weave a baskets for centuries to create different types of containers, from a small basket for trinkets to a huge one for storing grain. Traditional woven baskets range from very simple to elaborate, colorful works of art that took great skill to make. In some communities techniques have been passed down from generation to generation. Common materials used in this diverse craft include grasses, bark, roots, and wood.

The easiest technique is called **plaiting**: it starts with a flat base and weaves the strips in an under-over pattern upward to create the sides making a checked pattern. Materials that could be used in this type of basket would be yucca, wide grasses, or any other material that resembles the width of a ribbon. The Chitimacha basket pictured uses dyed grasses.



#1966-0254
Plaited Chitimacha Basket
Louisiana
ca 1910



#1966-0463
Twined Tlingit Basket
Alaska
Early 20th Century

Twining uses roots and tree bark and crosses them though each other around the basket. The Tlingit basket pictured is twined cedar bark decorated with dyed fibers. The Tlingit are known for using geometric stripes and false embroidery in their basketry.

Coiling was a popular technique which usually involved grasses or another similar material "stitched" into a coil formation. The Hopi storage basket pictured is made of coiled grass that has been dyed for the decorative designs.



#1967-0095
Coiled Hopi Basket
Southwest United States
20th Century

What types of baskets do you have in your home? Are they decorated with designs or pictures? Are they made out of grass, wood, or even plastic?

EXPLORE

To see more artifacts in the General Collection, visit the Museum of Anthropology's online databases:
<https://anthromuseum.missouri.edu/?q=online-databases>

Database Search Words:

Basket, North America, Twining, Coil, Plait

VISIT

The Museum has baskets from across North America in their permanent exhibits!

Tips for Using the Museum Databases

- Log in as a "Guest."
- Enter search terms into one or more fields and click the "Perform Find" button in the status area on the left-hand side of the screen.
- Use the book icon in the status area to move from one record to another in the found set.
- Click on the magnifying glass icon to return to find mode and perform additional searches.
- When finished working with a database, please be sure to click the "Log Out" button in the status area to close your session.



Activity: Weave a Paper Basket

Woven baskets have been created since the beginning of time - made for carrying and holding items. Your students can use colorful construction paper to make an easy paper basket to hold their special things!

What You Need:

- 2 sheets of construction paper
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Glue

What You Do:

1. Start by sharing the information on baskets in the Source by Sunday and taking a look at woven baskets **from the Anthropology Museum**. Woven baskets have been made for years, with artisans using materials such as reeds, twigs, bark and even paper!
2. Have students select two colors of construction paper to use for creating the woven paper baskets. They can use one as the main color for the base of their basket and the other for making strips for weaving.
3. Now, students can fold the base color of construction in half vertically and use the ruler to create several lines, about an inch apart, that go from the fold to just about an inch from the edge of the open edge of the paper - and are an inch from the outside edges of the paper.
4. Invite students to use scissors to cut along the lines, which will become the loom for the woven paper basket.
5. Students can use the ruler to create several lines on the other sheet of paper, about an inch apart, creating long strips to use for weaving into his basket. They can also use one for making their handle!
6. Invite students to begin weaving the basket using the basic over-under technique. Once one strip has been woven, they can add another, making sure they start opposite from the last length. If the last strip ended over, the next strip should be under!
7. Encourage students to continue weaving strips until the sheet has been filled with strips.
8. Now they can use a small amount of glue to secure each one in place and the scissors to trim any paper strips that are too long.
9. Have students fold the paper in half and glue the outside edges together, leaving an opening at the top.
10. Once the glue has dried, students can attach the paper strip handle for the woven paper basket using a couple of drops of glue!

