



Photo Credit:
Samuel A. Barrett (1965)

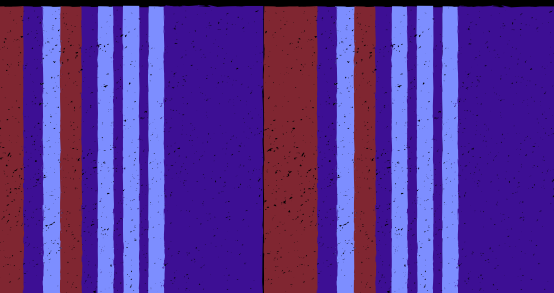
FOR AGES 7-8 YEARS OLD

MAKING ACORN BASKETS ACTIVITY

Within Northern California Indigenous communities, including the Hupa, Karuk, Lassik, and Yurok tribe, acorn baskets are an essential part of producing delicious acorn mush.

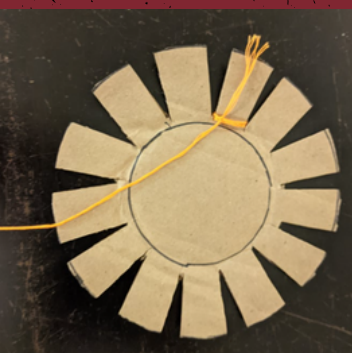
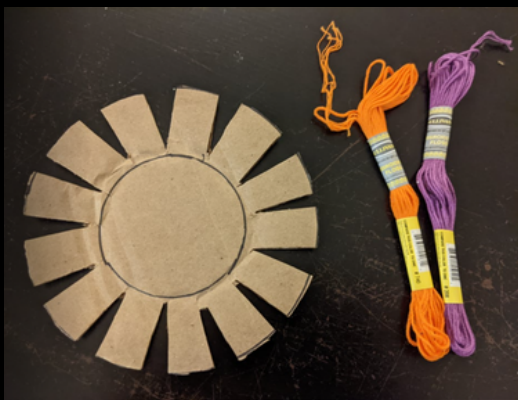
Traditionally, these baskets are hand woven from dried native plants, such as beaked hazelnut fibers, conifer (pine tree) roots, and beargrass. By combining these materials, weavers create intricate and beautiful patterns. Additionally, acorn baskets must be woven tightly, as to prevent any water or mashed acorn from leaking.

In this activity students will make a miniature acorn basket out of precut cardboard and string!

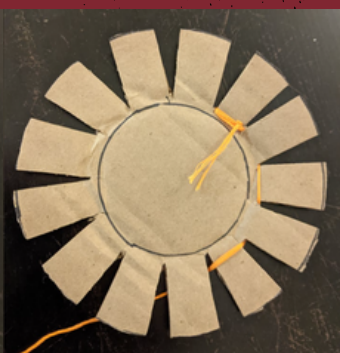


Materials

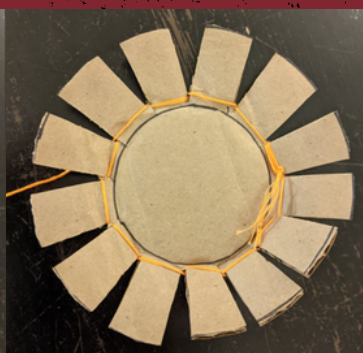
To make an acorn basket, students will only need a cardboard basket cutout [*please see final page for template*], two skeins of embroidery floss, and a pair of scissors.



Step 1. Tightly tie the string to one of the cardboard tabs. (*Make sure the short string faces the top or your cardboard cut out*).



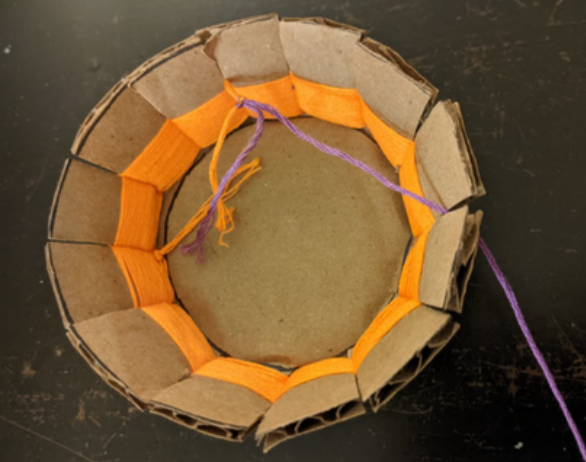
Step 2. Taking the longer string end, begin weaving the string under and over the cardboard tabs, making an alternating pattern.



Step 3. Continue to weave the string around the tabs. After weaving two circles, you will notice that the string is both under and over each tab.



Step 4. As you keep weaving in a circle, the cardboard will begin to form a basket shape.



Step 4. When you run out of string, tie a new strand to your remaining tail. (*Make sure the knot is inside the basket*). This allows you to change colors!



Step 5. When only a little cardboard is exposed, cut your working string and tie it to an old tail within the inside of the basket. (*This secures your string*). Then trim the tails without cutting your knots.

Your acorn basket is ready!
See what you can carry!



Make it Special!

- Use different colors of string.
- Experiment with thinner and thicker string.
- Cut tabs smaller for a narrow basket top.

