

## Basketry

**History of Basketry** Basketry may well be over 10,000 years old, but it's difficult to say definitively because ancient organic remains are often hard to come by.



[Maxwell Museum 90\\_23\\_1](#)

**Use of Baskets** Baskets are often used for ceremonies, collecting and storing things, carrying babies, processing food, and some even for holding water!



Maxwell Museum 55\_1\_70

**Making Baskets** Making baskets is a multi-step process that starts with collecting tools and materials (such as grass, yucca, willow, sumac, beads, pitch [tar], baleen, or other natural materials from the local environment), processing materials (by drying, soaking, splitting or dyeing), and finally weaving a finished piece.



Maxwell Museum  
87\_45\_828

1



Maxwell Museum  
87\_45\_836

2



Maxwell Museum  
87\_45\_829

3



Maxwell Museum  
87\_45\_831

4

Can you place the above pictures in the proper order to make a basket?

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**Types of Baskets** Typically, two processes are used to make baskets; sewing or weaving.

Coiled baskets are “sewn” together using thread like materials and an awl or needle.

Pictured below are two coiled baskets from the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology collection.



Maxwell Museum 65\_42\_54



Maxwell Museum 69\_71\_45

Woven baskets are plaited or twinned much like woven textiles.

Pictured below are two woven baskets from the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology collection.



Maxwell Museum 74\_10\_18



Maxwell Museum 84\_68\_2\_1

Visit our [website](#) to see more examples of baskets from our collection.

And weave your own basket using instructions found [here](#).

## Maxwell Museum Baskets

90_23_1	<a href="#">Jicarilla Apache basket bowl by Lydia Pesata</a>
55_1_70	Apache water jar
65_42_54	Mescalero Apache tray
69_71_45	Arctic lidded grass basket bowl
74_10_18	Choctaw or Cherokee twilled storage basket
84_68_2_1	A:shiwi (Zuni Pueblo: Zuñi) plaited yucca ring basket

**Basket weaving picture order: 1, 3, 4, 2**

## Basketry Resources

Basket weaving lesson plan from Crayola teachers.ca

<https://www.crayolateachers.ca/lesson/basket-weaving-colour-pattern-form/>

Apache basket weaving from the Heard Museum

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= 2IMD7rKblA>

Basketry information on how baskets are made around the world

<https://petlamp.org/basketry/>

A documentary about the art of basket weaving from PBS:

<https://www.pbs.org/video/art-basketweaving-jnfzv1/>

A museum exhibit on American Indian Basketry and the catalog for it

<https://www.sbnature.org/visit/exhibitions/53/american-indian-basketry>

A brief overview of baskets use and history

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Basket>

A narrative of a Basket-weaver

<https://www.hakaimagazine.com/features/the-basketmaker/>

Some photo collections from Nat Geo of Baskets and their makers

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/article/basket-museum/>

Some information on the Basket-maker period in the American Southwest

[https://www.crowcanyon.org/EducationProducts/pueblo\\_history\\_kids/basketmaker\\_artifacts.asp](https://www.crowcanyon.org/EducationProducts/pueblo_history_kids/basketmaker_artifacts.asp)



**Lulu among a collection of baskets from around the world**