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.

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

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 dying), and finally weaving a finished piece.

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

1      2          3    4

Maxwell Museum 90_23_1
Maxwell Museum 55_1_70
Maxwell Museum 87_45_828
Maxwell Museum 87_45_836
Maxwell Museum 87_45_829
Maxwell Museum 87_45_831
Maxwell Museum 87_45_828
Maxwell Museum 87_45_831
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.

![Coiled Basket Images]

Woven baskets are plaited or twinned much like woven textiles.

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

![Woven Basket Images]

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  Jicarilla Apache basket bowl by Lydia Pesata
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/americn-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
Lulu among a collection of baskets from around the world