

Unit: Crafts

Lesson: Coil Cord Baskets

Grade: 7th Grade

National Standards:

Content Standard #1 Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes
5-8 Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques, and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas

Content Standard #2 Using knowledge of structures and functions

5-8 Students select and use the qualities of structures and functions of art to improve communication of their ideas

Content Standard #4 Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures

5-8 Students describe and place a variety of art objects in historical and cultural contexts

Intro:

This project transforms traditional basketry into a contemporary fine craft. Paper Coiling Core is easily anchored to an adhesive base then shaped and glued in layers as the basket “grows” upward. Limitless shapes are possible by manipulating coil placement and applying pressure to create contours. Vibrant and fluid Acrylic paint can replicate patterns from the Papago, Navajo, and Apache cultures of Native America and Northern Mexico or be used in contemporary, abstract or representational styles.

Materials:

1/3” Coil Cord

Tacky Glue

T-pins

Acrylic paint

Vocabulary:

Coiling

Spiral building

Texture

Dry brush

Contrast

Procedure:

1. Begin by experimenting with the coiling process. Without exposing the adhesive yet, hold the end of the coil in the center of the Printfoam base and wind it around itself. Layer it to gain height and width. Vary the shape by tightening or expanding the coil placement and altering opening diameter.
2. Each basket will be a version of a rounded shape. Variations and imperfections in the coil process distort the form slightly and make it more organic. The coil is kept intact and will not be cut again until the basket is completely formed.
3. When a shape has been decided upon, peel away the release paper to expose the adhesive on the Printfoam base. Begin by placing the coil in the center and coil it around itself, pressing firmly until the base is covered.
4. Flip the base over so that the coiled side becomes the bottom of the basket. Work with the base flat on the outer table. Gather the remaining length of the paper coil material in a natural loop to keep it organized.
5. Place a line of glue on the paper coil base edge and add a layer of coil. Repeat by placing more glue on the coil itself and building up a second layer. Secure layers with a T-Pin. The glue and paper will adhere well; for best results, however, press firmly together. Continue building up the walls of the basket.
6. Gently alter and control the direction of the basket by making the coil tighter or widening it out as it is applied. For a narrow opening, grip the piece firmly pressing the coils together. The upward direction builds stability as the piece grows.
7. When the desired shape has been reached, trim the coil at an angle with a utility knife or a pair of scissors.
8. Use extra glue to seal the cut edge of the coil and any open areas in the body of the basket. If necessary use rubber bands or T-pins to hold any areas together while glue dries.
9. Paint the basket with dark Acrylic. This can be done even before the glue is completely dry. Allow to dry, and then dry brush over the high relief of the texture created by the coils.
10. Embellish with a variety of yarns, wire, beads, raffia, etc. Create fringe and tassels. Attach embellishments with glue or with embroidery floss and needle.

