



AMUM

Lesson Plan Template

Teacher	
Grade/Subject	General Art
Lesson Title	Basket Weaving

Lesson Overview

Students will create a woven basket inspired by traditional African baskets, recognize key factors of weaving and traditional basket weaving, and develop fine motor skills through repetitive motions.

Suggested Standards

- VA.Cr1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work
- VA.Cr.2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work
- VA.P3: Convey and express meaning through the presentation of artistic work
- VA.R1: Perceive and analyze artistic work

Objectives

- Learn about the traditional African art of basket weaving.
- Recognize key factors of basket weaving including materials, techniques, cultural importance, and utilitarian uses.
- Create a woven basket inspired by traditional African baskets with an emphasis on choice of material and technical craftsmanship.
- Develop fine motor skills and understanding of weaving techniques.

Assessment

- Pre-Instruction guided discussion questions
- Strategic questioning as a group during instruction
- Present and reflect on choices made during the activity (group talk, exit ticket, etc.)



Materials

- Cardboard or Paper plates
- Weaving material (twine, yarn, natural grasses, etc.)
- Scissors
- Basket Weaving Template (square, round, triangle)
- Pencil or pen for tracing

Introduction

- Ask students what experience they have with baskets.
 - “Does anyone have baskets in their home?”
 - “What are some things you use baskets for?”
- Show images or videos of African baskets from different regions like:
 - Rwanda- Agaseke peace baskets
 - Ghana- Bolgatanga baskets
 - South Africa- Zulu baskets
 - Uganda- Bukedo and Raffia baskets
- Ask students:
 - “What do you notice about the patterns and colors?”
 - “What do you think the baskets are used for?”

Instruction

- Traditional African baskets are made using natural materials like:
 - Palm leaves
 - Grasses (Elephant grass and Sweetgrass)
 - Raffia
 - Reeds
- Techniques used by traditional artists include:
 - Over and under weaving patterns
 - Circular or coiled patterns

Activity

- Show an example of a completed basket.
- Remind students of the significance of color, pattern, and materials.
- Explain their objective:
 - Students will create a woven basket inspired by traditional African baskets with an emphasis on choice of material and technical craftsmanship.
- Walk them through the steps to begin a basket:
 - Choose basket shape and trace template on cardboard.

- Symbolism and Utilitarianism:

- Baskets are used to carry food, store goods, and even for ceremonies and storytelling.
- Patterns and colors are used to give meaning to baskets.
- Weaving is a generational skill, passed down through families, it is also a living tradition, as many artists still practice the traditional form of weaving.

- Cut cardboard to create the base of the basket.
- Fold flaps up to create the base for the walls.
- Have students choose a length of weaving material, and glue or tie one end to a flap to secure it.
- Begin weaving, following an over and under pattern.
- Remind them to push down their yarn as they go to make sure their basket is taught.

- Once students have completely woven their basket, glue or tie the tail of the weaving material to a flap to finish it off.

- Optional Extensions:

- Have students glue or sew on a piece of ribbon to cover the lip of the basket.
- Have students make handles for their baskets (braided loops or ribbon) and attach them with glue or by sewing.

Reflection

- Students present their final piece and explain their color and material choices.
 - “Why did you choose that color? What does it mean to you?”
 - “Why did you choose that material?”
- As a class, discuss how students plan to use their baskets.
 - “Are they strictly decorative? Or will they be used to hold something?”

Additional Resources