



# AMUM

Lesson Plan Template

<b>Teacher</b>	
<b>Grade/Subject</b>	<b>General Art</b>
<b>Lesson Title</b>	<b>Basket Weaving</b>

## 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	Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Learn about the traditional African art of basket weaving.</li><li>Recognize key factors of basket weaving including materials, techniques, cultural importance, and utilitarian uses.</li><li>Create a woven basket inspired by traditional African baskets with an emphasis on choice of material and technical craftsmanship.</li><li>Develop fine motor skills and understanding of weaving techniques.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pre-Instruction guided discussion questions</li><li>Strategic questioning as a group during instruction</li><li>Present and reflect on choices made during the activity (group talk, exit ticket, etc.)</li></ul>

## 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