Paper Cup Twined Basket*

Objectives:
Students will learn twining, a basic basket weaving technique. Students will weave a simple design on a paper cup basket.

Curriculum ties:
Math (measurement, spatial relationships, geometry, patterns, fractions) Science and geography (local plant materials, human adaptation) Art (design, technique, materials)

Vocabulary: warp, weft, equal, vertical, horizontal, pattern, repeat, symmetry, column, checkered, graph, odd, even, half, circle, count, under, over, angle

Materials:
Eight ounce plain paper cups Yarn Scissors

Directions:
1. Make twelve vertical cuts of equal size from the lip of the cup to its base. (Have students mark their cups before they cut to ensure even spacing). Start by making a cut on each side and then across, then make cuts between those cuts, ending with twelve cuts. When finished, you will have twelve ‘petals’. These petals are the warp.

2. Take two arm-length strands of different colored yarn and tie them together at one end. Make a big knot so it will stay in the cup. The yarn is the weft.

3. Insert the knot into the warp so the knot is on the inside of the cup. The knot should be at the base of the cup.

4. Take one color yarn strand and weave it over the warp petal it is next to. Then move the strand behind the next warp petal, then over the next warp petal, and repeat. You'll be doing the opposite with the other color yarn – start behind the first warp petal, over the next warp petal, behind the next, etc.

This weave will result in the same color on a warp petal. For example, if one strand is green and the other red, the red will always be on one column and the green on the next column.

5. To finish, tie the ends of the yarn together once the lip of the cup is reached.

6. One variation is to twist the yarn strands once (i.e., reverse the color) to result in a checkerboard design. Challenge your students to develop other variations that will result in a repetitive design.

*Activity adapted from a workshop by Judy Dow (oyate.com)
For more about basketry techniques see the Burke Museum online Basketry Exhibition. Native American Basketry: Identify Your Grandmother’s Baskets. http://www.burkemuseum.org/static/baskets/idgame/id.html