

LESSON PLAN

Lesson Title: Coiled Basketry

Grade Level: Adaptable 5th – 12th grades

Length of Lesson: Four 90-minute Class Periods

Lesson Description:

Students will learn about the tradition of coiled basketry with native plant materials and create their own colorful coiled basket.

South Carolina State Standards:

5-6: 5-1.3, 2.2, 5.2; 6-1.3, 2.2, 5.2

9-12: VAH1-1.3, 2.2, 5.2; VAH2-1.3, 2.2, 5.2

Instructional Objectives:

- Students will create a basket using the coil construction method.

Vocabulary:

Craft
Basket
Coiling
Form
Gullah

Florence County Museum Connections:

River Grass Basket, Pee Dee History Gallery
Coiled Basket, Focus Gallery, Open Collection Storage

Materials:

12 feet of paper coiling core for each student (<http://www.dickblick.com/products/coiling-core/>)
Yarn, various colors and thicknesses
Plastic Yarn Needle, One per student

Questioning:

- How do the materials that were used to make this basket (River Grass) relate to the environment?
- Why do you think River Grass was an appropriate material for the basket on this poster?
- Why was coiling an appropriate choice for weaving with River Grass?
- What other materials could be used to make baskets using the coil method?
- How would a basket like this have been used?

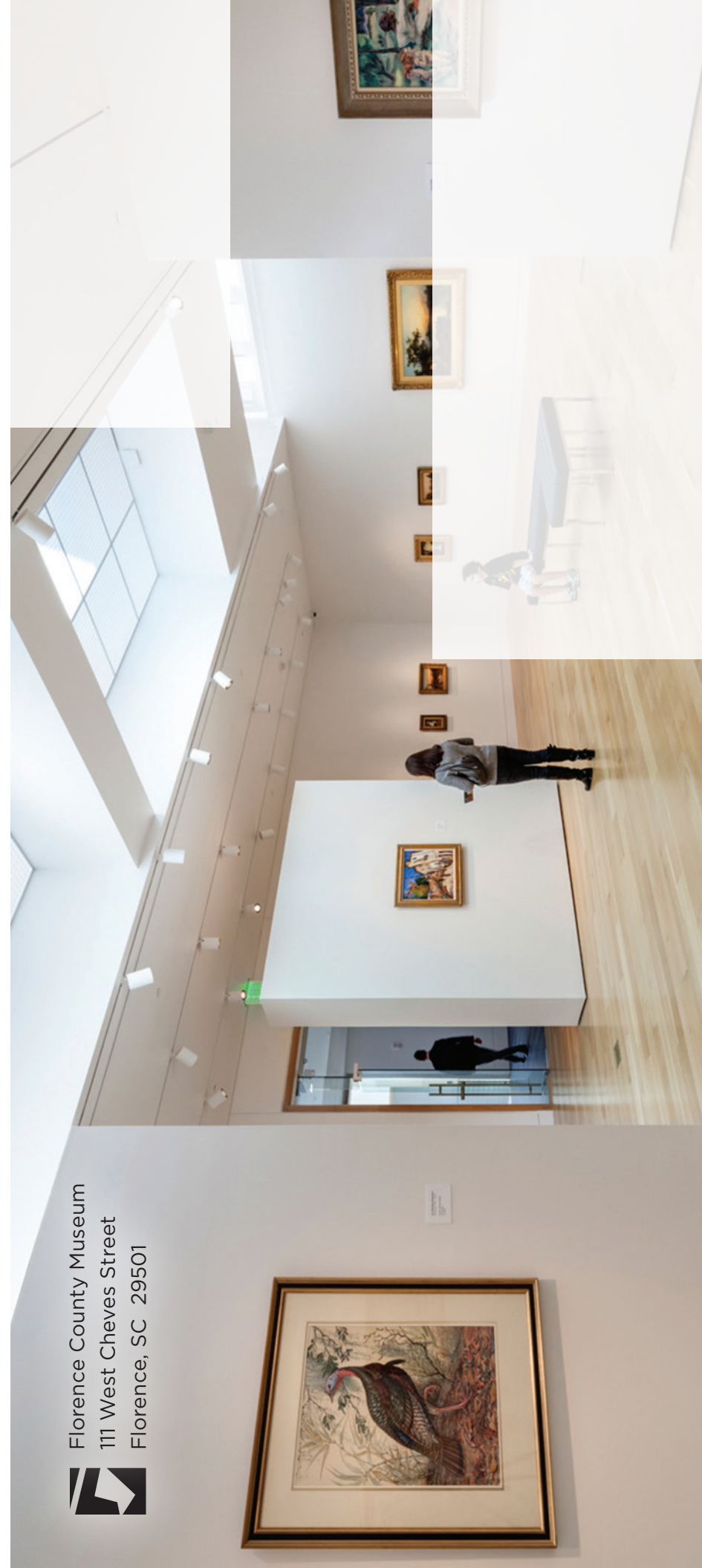
Instructional Procedures*:

1. Begin the center base of the basket by forming the coil.
 - Taper one end of the coiling core with scissors. Thread plastic yarn needle with about 6 feet of yarn and then double the yarn. Always use a double strand of yarn to cover the coiling core. Place 1 inch of the yarn next to the end of the coiling core and then wrap the two tightly together with some of the remaining yarn. As you can see, you wrap, moving towards the cut end of the coiling core.
 - Pinch the covered coiling core to bend and hold in place. Using needle, work Figure 8's over and under the core, toward the tapered end, until it is covered with yarn.
2. Coil yarn-covered end around to start the circular shape. If necessary, repeat another Figure 8 to hold first coil in place, then work three winds around core, followed by a Figure 8 to attach to previous coil. This is the basic pattern that you will continue on the rest of the basket: Three winds to cover the coiling core, a Figure 8 to connect two rows, three winds, a Figure 8, etc. Carefully stack the coils as you weave to achieve the desired shape.
3. To add on more yarn or change to a new color, with 2" – 3" remaining, cut the needle off of the yarn and lay the yarn ends along the coiling core; thread another needle and then place the ends of the new yarn next to the ends of the old yarn and secure in place by winding the new yarn over them until covered.
4. To end a basket, taper the coiling core about 1 inch from the end. Securely attach the last row end to the previous row with Figure 8's and then wrap the yarn around the last row end and the previous row as if they were both one. Thread yarn back through the Figure 8's and cut off.

*For additional resources and step-by-step procedures with photographs please refer to the following:
www.craftypod.com/2008/04/19/how-to-coil-a-basket
www.craftyarncouncil.com/desert2/html

Closure and Critique:

- What other available materials could be used to make baskets using the coil method?
- How could you use the basket that you made? Could a basket be made to fulfill some other purpose in your everyday life?



Florence County Museum
111 West Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29501



PEE DEE CONNECTIONS

Published by the Florence County Museum
with funding provided by the National Endowment for the Arts

Vol. 2 No. 1



ABOUT THIS POSTER

This Antebellum basket was made on the farm of Mary Elizabeth Fountain Johnson in Marion County. The coil-wrap construction is similar to the method used in sweetgrass weaving, a technique which was introduced into South Carolina by West African slaves. The family did not own slaves, and the basket is thought to have been made by a half-black, half-Native American servant employed by Ms. Johnson after her husband died from wounds received in the Civil War.

The Community Arts Program is part of an arts integration program through the Florence County Museum. Funding for this program is provided by the **National Endowment for the Arts** and the **Trustees of the Florence Museum**.



Florence County Museum | 111 West Cheves Street | Florence, South Carolina | 843.676.1200 | flocomuseum.org

Tuesday - Saturday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Sunday: 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm



Hand-woven river grass basket and lid
1860s

Gift of Frieda K. Bradsher & Carla Bradsher-Fredrick
2104.a, b