

# Discover

## The Meaning of Baskets!

A self-guided discovery hunt for the Woven through Time exhibit.

(Best for grade 3rd-5th)



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
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## EXHIBIT SECTION: INTRODUCTION

**Start at the case full of miniature baskets.**

Find the basket that inspired how these miniature baskets are displayed.

*Hint: You may need to stand back to see the design the baskets make. The design is often referred to as a whirlwind.*

Draw the design below:

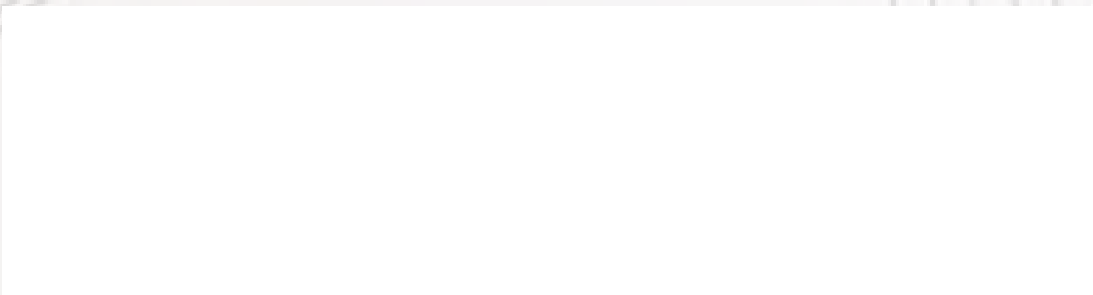


**Next look at the large photo to the left of the miniature case.**

**Find the woman wearing a crown.**

She is Miss Papago 1973. Her crown is a woven of the same materials used to make baskets.

***What else is she wearing that is made of basketry materials?***



## EXHIBIT SECTION: ANCIENT TRADITIONS

Go to the first case on the left with this symbol:



**Find the little deer-like figures. How old are they?**

These were found in caves in the Grand Canyon area. Caves are cool, dry, and dark. These conditions help preserve items made of fiber.

**Look for the small child-sized sandal below it and the sandal imprint next to it.**

The design woven into the bottom of a sandal made the imprint. The unique designs could be recognized by friends and family.

**Look at the bottom of your shoe. Is there a 3D design on the bottom?**

Yes  No

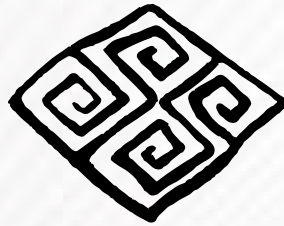
**Could someone recognize its imprint as yours? Why or why not?**

**Find the white sash.** It is made of dog hair. Dog hair is slippery and works best to make yarn when mixed with other fibers.

**What material was the dog hair mixed with?**



**Check out the next case a with this symbol:**



**Find two baskets that can hold water.**

To keep the water from leaking out, the basket fibers were covered with something.

**What is it?**

**Look at the piece of woven textile with a blue design.**

**What plant was used to dye the threads blue?**





**Look at the next case with this symbol:**



**Find the large net.**

Many people worked together to weave this net.

**What do you think it was used for in the desert?**

**Look at the other end of the case.**

**What are some items people stored in baskets? List them:**

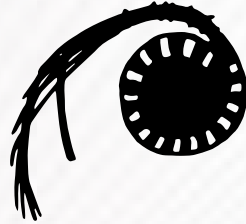
**Visit the window of baskets:**

**Look at all the different designs.**

**What different animals and plants can you find?**

## EXHIBIT SECTION: BASKETRY NOW

Look at case on the right with this symbol:



The materials used vary depending on the environment where the basket maker lives.

**The Tohono O’odham (Desert People) and the Akimel O’odham (River People) live in desert environment in southern Arizona. What materials do they use to make baskets?**

**The Apache live in the mountains in central Arizona. What materials do they use to make baskets?**



Look at the two center cases, starting with the one on the right with this symbol:



**Find the figure carrying a basket on her back.**

These are called burden baskets and are used to carry things over long distances.

**Can you think of something similar you wear to school?**

**What is it and what do you carry in it?**

A large, empty white rectangular box intended for the student's response to the questions above.

Look at the center case on the left with this symbol:



**Find the three baskets that look like a person is entering a maze.**

These are made by O’odham artists. They tell a story about gaining wisdom as you travel through the maze of life: During your life, you will need to figure out things. Sometimes the path is straight and easy; other times, you might reach an obstacle and have to figure out a different way to do something. At the end of your life, the wisdom you gained will lead you to the center of the maze.

**Are there times when you had to figure out how to do something differently to make it work?**

Yes

No





**Look at the last case with this symbol:**



**Which basket do you like best? Why?**

A large, empty white rectangular box intended for the student's response to the question above.

**Look in the book below and find the artist who made that basket.**

**What is their name? Where are they from?**

A large, empty white rectangular box intended for the student's response to the question above.



# Now it is your turn to design a basket!



*Here are some things to consider:*

**What will you use your basket for when it is finished?**

**What shape will your basket be?**

**What plant or man-made materials you will use to weave your basket?**

**What designs will you weave into the basket?**



**Draw your basket here**

