

# Activity Idea

## Cup Weaving

### Vietnamese Basket Weaving with Cup

*Recommended age level: 6 - 10*

Basket weaving is a Vietnamese craft done traditionally by using bamboo. These baskets come in all shapes and sizes and can be used in all manner of ways, whether functional or decorative. In Vietnam, there are large round waterproof baskets known as basket boats used by fisherman. These are also sometimes used as transportation for light cargo or people. Basket boats are so popular there are even basket boat races! This activity will allow you to try weaving yourself. Please watch this YouTube video for reference:

<https://tinyurl.com/yad2q85w>

#### What you need:

- Paper or plastic cup
- Scissors
- Yarn
- Pencil/Pen
- Measuring tape (optional)



#### What to do:

1. Use a pen or pencil to make an odd number of marks spread evenly around the rim of the cup. Make at least seven marks. You may want to use a measuring tape.
2. At each mark, use scissors to cut straight down to the bottom of the cup. Drawing a straight line down from each mark may be helpful. You should have an odd number of strips attached to the bottom of your cup.



3. Cut your yarn into sections that are each 2 feet long. This will make it easier to undo knots and make the yarn less likely to tangle. Make sure all your yarn pieces are tangle and knot free.
4. Tie a double knot at the end of your first piece of yarn.
5. Slip the knot into one of the slits. Make sure the knot is on the inside of the cup.
6. Weave the yarn around the cup by moving the yarn over and under each strip of the cup as you make your way around. See video above for details.
7. As you weave around the cup, push the yarn down so that there are no gaps. Be careful not to pull too hard on the yarn because that will warp the cup's shape.
8. Once you get to the end of your piece of yarn or you want to change colors, tie another piece of yarn to the end of the previous one. Try to keep the knot on the inside of the cup and continue weaving.
9. Once you are finished, tie a double knot, cut the excess, slip the knot inside the cup and hide it in your weaving.



Have fun!

**Other resources:**

- Ancient Village Weaving (Vietnamese Style) on Youtube <https://tinyurl.com/y9sthazh>
- The basket boats of Vietnam from National Geographic <https://tinyurl.com/y9a7mnrU>
- Vietnam by Anita Yasuda on Hoopla <https://tinyurl.com/y8aj6fzk>
- Vietnam by Julie Murray on Hoopla <https://tinyurl.com/y75wmgb3>