

# Kunu's Basket

## A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

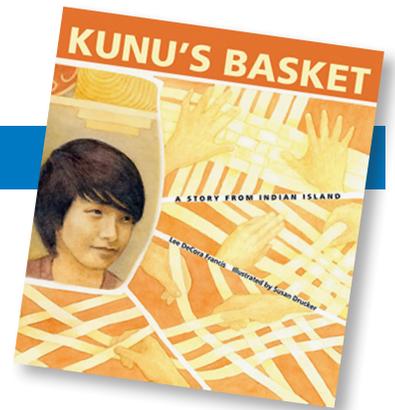
**Themes:** American Indian Culture, Traditions, Family, Perseverance

**Grade Level:** K to 2nd grade

**Book Brief:** With the help of his grandfather, a young boy makes his first basket.

**Author:**  
Lee DeCora Francis

**Illustrator:**  
Susan Drucker



## TIME TO READ!

**Before reading:** Ask children where they normally see baskets. How do they think baskets are made? Explain that most baskets today are made by machines, but weaving baskets by hand is still an important tradition and art form for many cultures.

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### MAPLE BUTTER POPCORN (AGES 5-12)

*Maple syrup and corn are crops grown in the region where Kunu lives.*

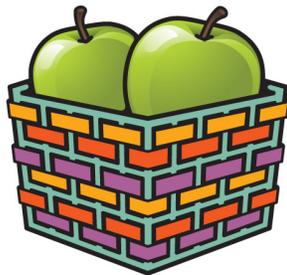
Ingredients: 1 tbsp. butter and 1 tbsp. maple syrup per cup of popcorn

Melt butter in the microwave. Stir in maple syrup. Drizzle over fresh popcorn, stirring to coat. Eat immediately!

### EASY WEAVING (AGES 6-12)

Materials: plastic fruit or berry baskets, ribbon, construction paper, stapler, scissors

Here's a simple way to make a basket that's almost hand-woven. "Weave" different colors of ribbon through the holes in the fruit basket; make

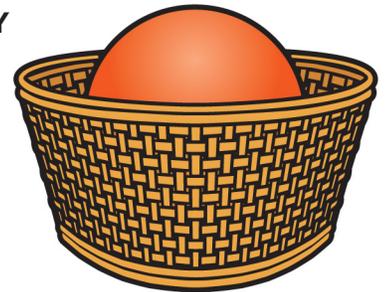


patterns with the colors. Tie off the ends. To make a handle, cut out a thin strip of construction paper or ribbon and staple it to two sides of the basket.

### BASKET BALL RELAY (AGES 8-12)

Materials: 2 shallow baskets, 2 small balls, masking tape

Draw a line on the floor with tape. Place the baskets several feet away. Divide the children into two groups and have them line up behind the tape. Players must throw the ball into the basket until it stays without bouncing out. The first team to have all its players "make a basket" wins. For an added challenge, prop up the baskets and tilt them forward to make the ball more likely to bounce out.



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT BASKET WEAVING

*Many Hands: A Penobscot Indian Story*, Angeli Perrow (2011),

*Circle Unbroken*, Margot Theis Raven (2007),

*Weaving a California Tradition: A Native American Basketmaker*, Linda Yamane (1996).

### TECHNOLOGY LINK FOR KIDS

[www.rif.org/kids](http://www.rif.org/kids)

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