

Zulu “oops” Basket – Kids Around the World Create!



In the Hluhluwe (shah-SHLEW-ee) area of KwaZulu Natal (wah-ZU-LU-NAH-tahl), a province within the Republic of South Africa, village women weave beautiful baskets of palm and rush reed. The Zulu women teach their daughters, some as young as 5, the traditional art of basket weaving. The children weave small baskets called “oops” baskets because sometimes they make mistakes as they weave. The baskets are great for holding nuts and candy.

Check your program book to see where this activity might help you complete parts of the program.

Materials: scissors, plastic container (yogurt, etc), ruler, yarn, masking tape, and paper clip.

1. Cut slits into the cup from the rim to the bottom of the cup. You must have an uneven number of strips. (11, 13, 15 or 17 strips works well)
2. Cut a piece of yarn approximately 6 metres in length. Insert the yarn between two strips. Slide it to the bottom and fasten to the inside of the cup with a piece of tape.
3. Begin to weave the strand in front and behind the next strip, pushing the yarn down to the bottom. Tape the end of the strand.
4. Cut a second piece of yarn approximately 6 metres in length and begin at the next strip.
5. Continue to weave until you reach the rim of the cup. Secure the ends of the yarn. Using the paper clip weave the end in so that it doesn't unravel.

