



Educational Partners:



**SOCIETY OF
AMERICAN
FORESTERS**
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U.S. Endowment
for Forestry and Communities

FORESTS OF THE FIRST STEWARDS

K-2 Discussion Guide

EPISODE 3: END USE PRODUCTS AND EDUCATION

Episode Overview:

Subtopic 5: Basket Weaving

We meet up next with a Menominee BASKET WEAVER who takes us through the art of basket making, the history and cultural significance. We visit a basket-making class, where the INSTRUCTOR guides viewers through the process of weaving and creating a basket. We also learn of other historical uses such as building materials, canoes, and warmth that the forest provides. We also see many finished baskets on display, both new and old.

Subtopic 6: Menominee College – Sustainable Development Institute (SDI)

We next travel to Menominee College where we get a first-hand look at the future of the forest. We meet with Jennifer Gauthier, who introduces us to SDI, and their efforts to employ sustainable practices with a culturally-grounded context. Also, learning how the college is bridging cultural teachings and modern industry technology.

Subtopic 8: Menominee Phenology Trail

Our journey on campus continues with a trip down the Phenology Trail with Jennifer Gauthier, who educates the viewers on the importance of Phenology and reinforces the cultural significance of the forest, highlighting how conservation and stewardship play a key role in the healthiness of the Menominee land and their way of life.





LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Identify forest resources used for art, building, and tools.
2. Recognize that traditional knowledge can be shared through education.
3. Practice fine motor skills through a hands-on weaving or craft activity.

STANDARDS ALIGNMENT

NGSS (Science/Engineering)

- K-PS2-1: Plan and conduct investigations to understand materials and objects.
- K-ESS3-3: Communicate solutions that protect natural resources.

Common Core (ELA)

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.7: With prompting, describe illustrations and details in a text or video.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.2: Use a combination of drawing, dictating, or writing to narrate a story or process.

Activity Time

30 minutes

Activity Summary

In this lesson, students learn about the Sustainable Development Institute (SDI) and how the Menominee people combine traditional knowledge with modern tools to care for the forest and use its resources in meaningful ways. After watching episode 3, students will practice the basic steps of basket weaving. This lesson helps students understand how forest products can be used for art, daily life, and cultural traditions while also supporting sustainability.

Materials

- White paper strips (length and width dependent on desired basket size and complexity)
- Crayons or other coloring materials
- Glue (optional)
- Tape (optional)
- Paperclips (optional)





VOCABULARY

Sustainable - Using things in a way that keeps them healthy and available for a long time, so people, plants, and animals can still have what they need in the future.

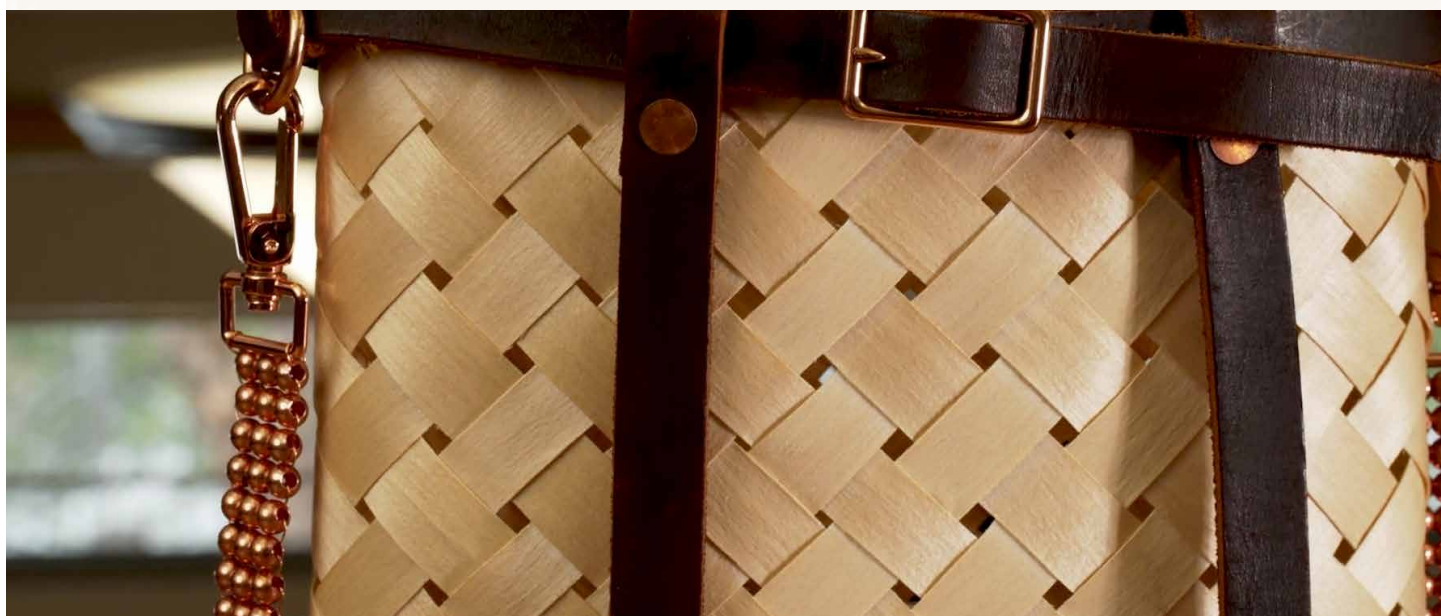
Weave - To cross materials over and under each other to make something, like a basket, mat, or cloth.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For generations, Menominee people have used materials from the forest to make baskets and other useful items. Through the SDI, they combine traditional knowledge with new technology and science to teach a new generation of students how conservation and stewardship play a key role in the healthiness of the Menominee land and their way of life.

LEARNING PROCEDURE

- Introduction: 4 minutes
 - Explain to the students that they will be watching a video about the SDI, which allows the Menominee people to combine their traditional knowledge with new technology to teach their students about caring for the forest. They will also see how forest products can be used in crafting and art. Introduce the terms sustainable and weave.
- Activity
 - Watch Episode 3: 7 minutes
 - Basket Weaving: 19 minutes
 - Pass out paper strips and crayons to each student. Encourage them to decorate their paper with things that they have seen, heard, and learned about the Menominee Tribe.
 - While students are coloring, ask them to share what they are choosing to include on their strips of paper. Let their examples lead the conversation around what they've learned so far.
 - Gather the paper and, using one of the instructional videos below, weave a basket. Depending on their age and fine-motor skill development, students can also be instructed on how to weave their own baskets.
- Wrap up: 2 minutes
 - Ask the students to share how the Menominee might use the baskets that they weave.





RESOURCES

- Activities
 - o Choosy Kids basket weaving video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qM9YECwZHiA>
 - o Craft Daily basket weaving video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBCWVNDliQo>
 - o The Little Genius Workshop basket weaving video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZALKVdpFIY>
- Additional Information
 - o <https://menominee-nsn.gov/CulturePages/BriefHistory>
 - o <https://www.menominee.edu/sustainable-development-institute>
 - o <https://www.mtewood.com/>

Additional Resources from LEAF: Wisconsin's K-12 Forestry Education Program:



LEAF-Wisconsin's K-12 Forestry Education Program
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

- [Lesson 1: American Indians and the Forest](#)
- [Lesson 7: Sustaining Our Forests](#)
- [Career Profile - McKaylee Duquain](#)
- [Wisconsin Forest Tales](#)
- [K-1st Grade Field Enhancement - Sensing the Forest](#)
- [2nd-3rd Grade Field Enhancement - Observing Forest Interactions](#)
- [4th Grade Field Enhancement - Unlocking a Forest's Past](#)
- [5th-6th Grade Field Enhancement - Studying Forest Layers](#)
- [5th-6th Grade Field Enhancement - Woods Worth](#)
- [5th-6th Grade Field Enhancement - Competition in the Forest](#)