Xáay ka Laax

Yellow and Red Cedar

Grade Levels K-2

TEACHER RESOURCES

A series of elementary level thematic units featuring Tlingit language, culture and history were developed in Juneau, Alaska in 2004-6. The project was funded by two grants from the U.S. Department of Education, awarded to the Sealaska Heritage Institute (Boosting Academic Achievement: Tlingit Language Immersion Program, grant #92-0081844) and the Juneau School District (Building on Excellence, grant #S356AD30001).

Lessons and units were written by a team of teachers and specialists led by Nancy Douglas, Elementary Cultural Curriculum Coordinator, Juneau School District. The team included Juneau teachers Kitty Eddy, Shgen George, Kathy Nielson, Hans Chester and Rocky Eddy, and SHI language team members Linda Belarde, Yarrow Vaara, David Katzeek, John Marks, Mary Foletti, Rose Natkong and Jessica Chester. Curriculum consultants Julie Folta and Toni Mallott assisted and Annie Calkins edited the lessons and units.

Lessons were field tested in Juneau classrooms in 2005-6.

All units are available online at sealaskaheritage.org.

Sealaska Heritage Institute

City and Borough of Juneau School District

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X̲áay
Yellow Cedar

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Laax
Red Cedar

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Aas k'eeyi ka At looní

Trunk and Bark

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At looní

Bark

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A t’áni
Branch

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S’óos’ani
Cones

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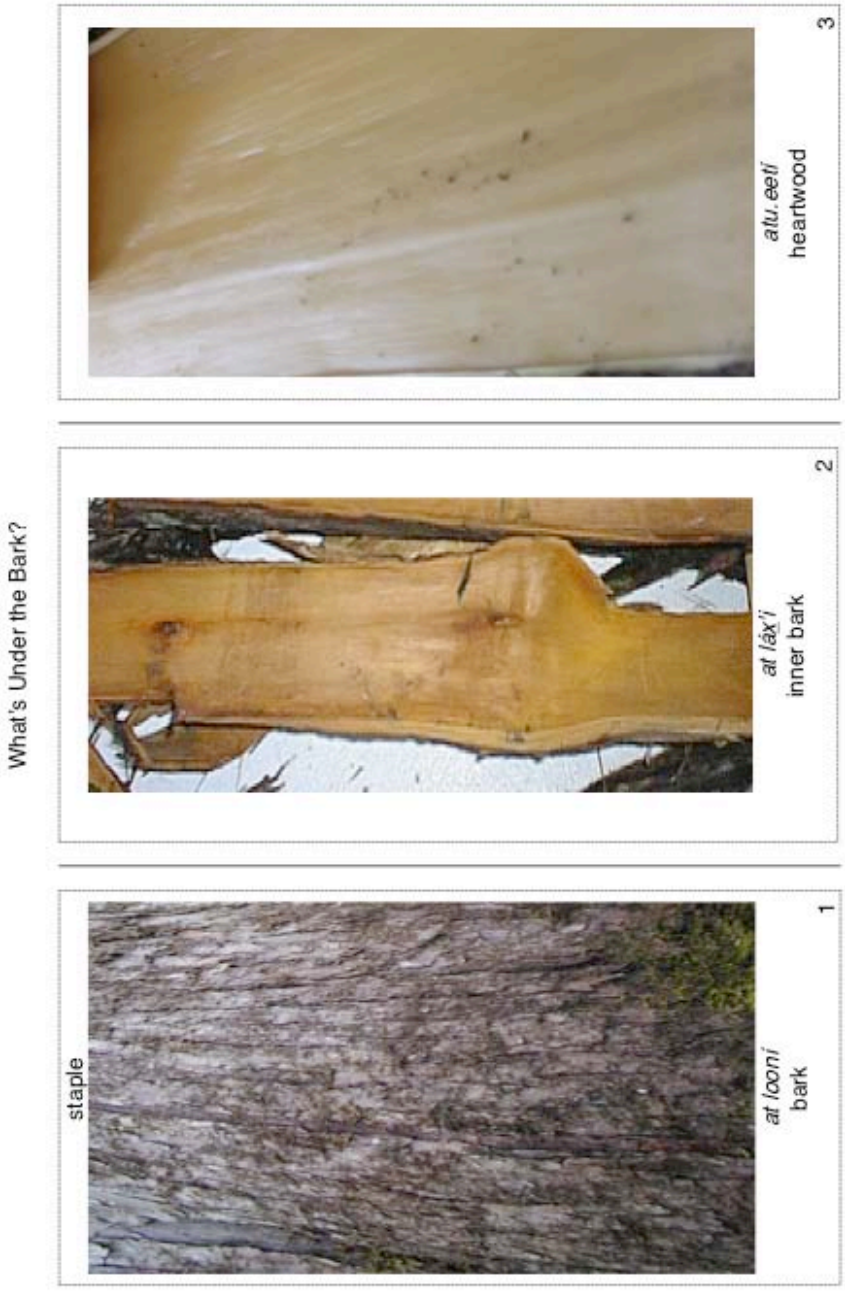
Cut and staple the layers of a cedar tree.

What's Under the Bark?



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Gathering Cedar Bark

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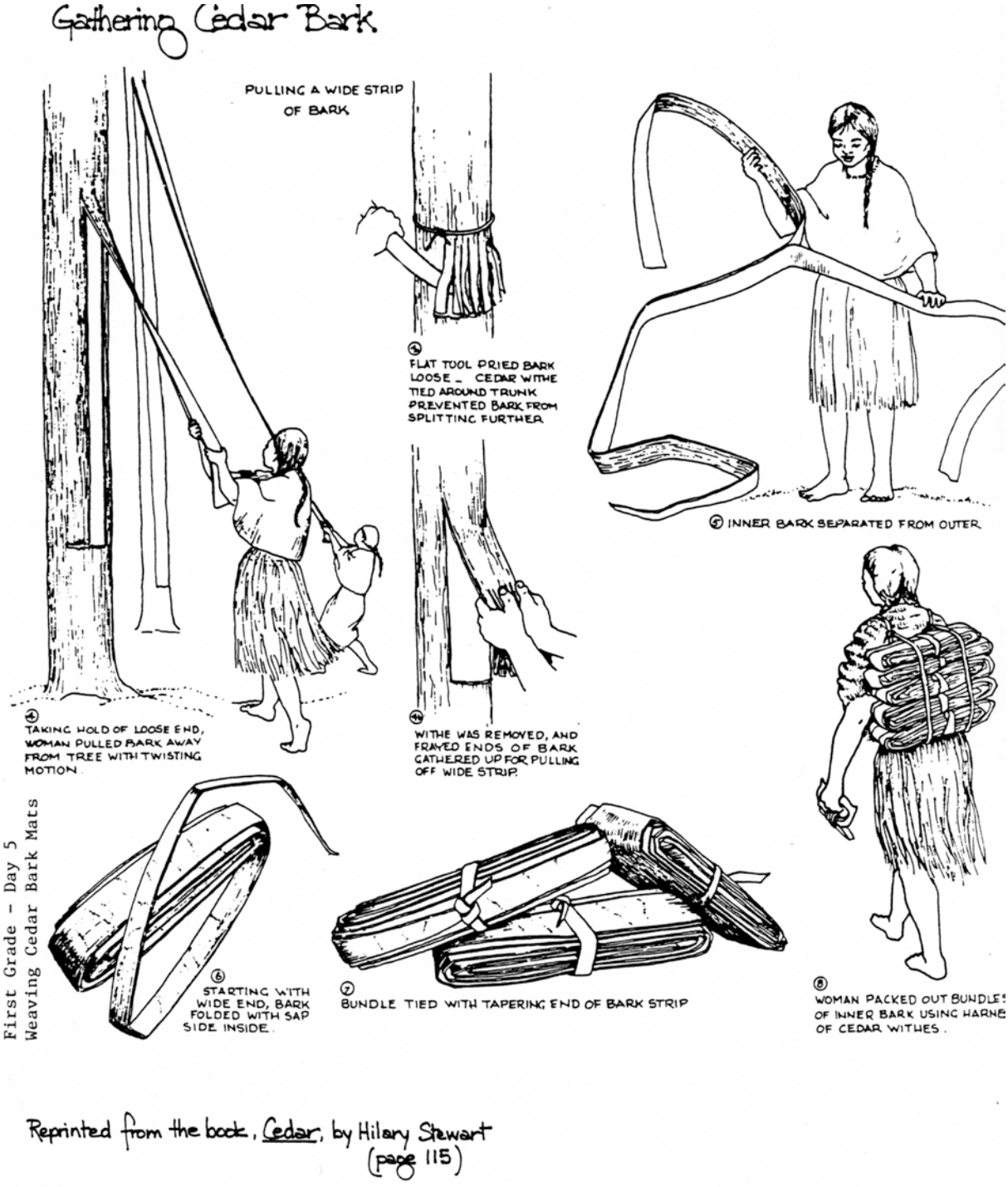

From the Juneau School District Indian Studies Curriculum

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Items Made From Cedar

Bailers

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Alaska State Library - Historical Collections
ASL-P87-0064
Cedar Basket Weaving

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UA71-018-0003
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Cedar Bark Basket

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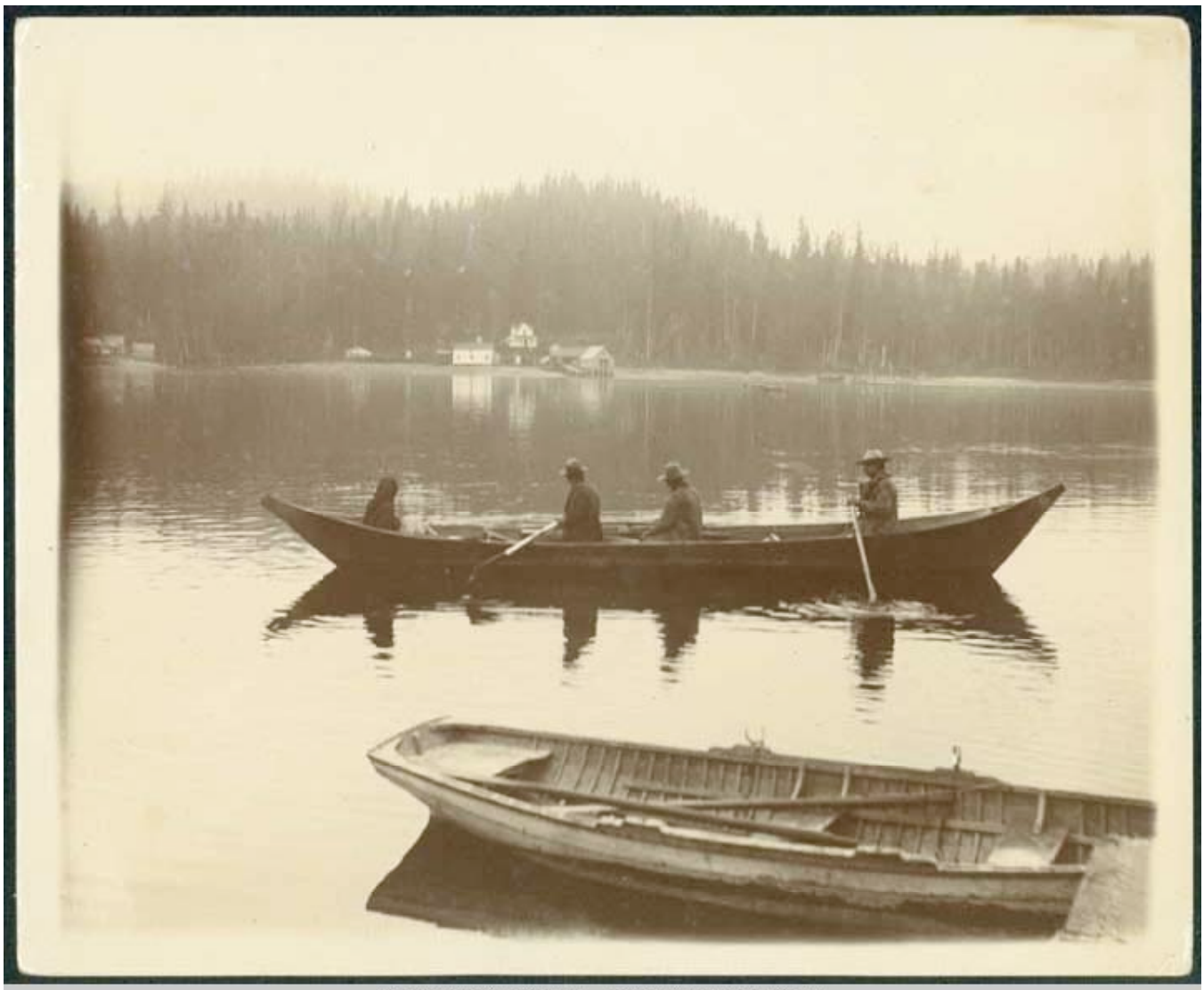

Alaska State Library – Historical Collection
ASL-SandfordCove-10

Three men and a woman in a cedar canoe.

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Alaska State Library – Historical Collection
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Cedar Totem Pole

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Chilkat Robe
Warp yarns have cedar bark spun into them to make them stronger.

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Weaving Cedar

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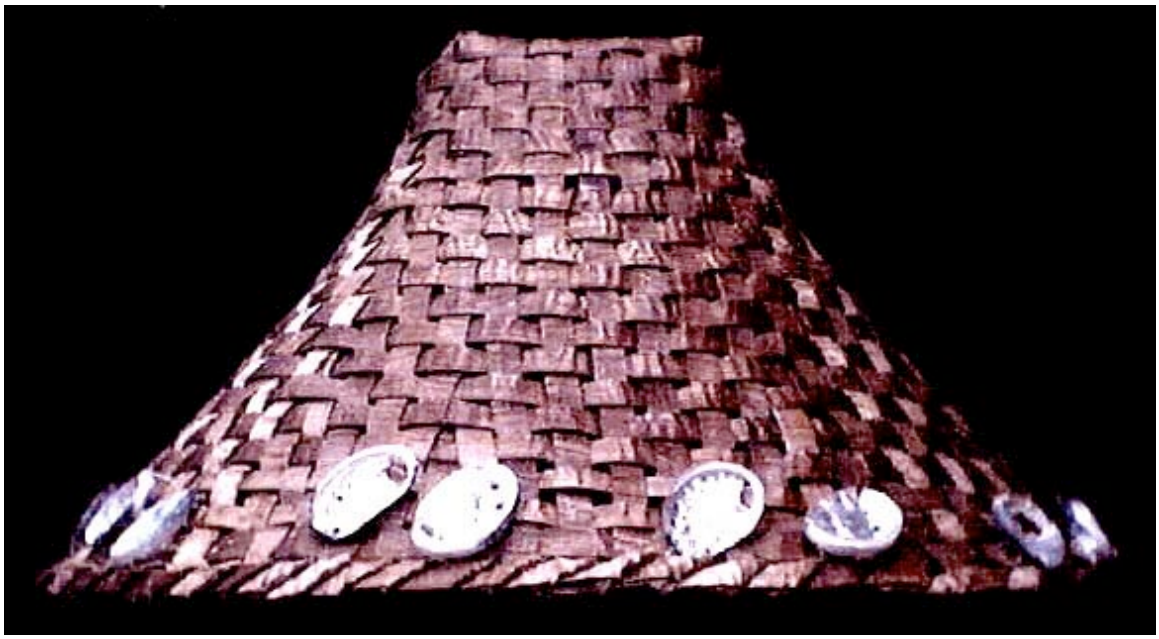

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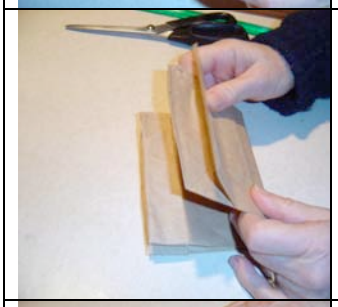
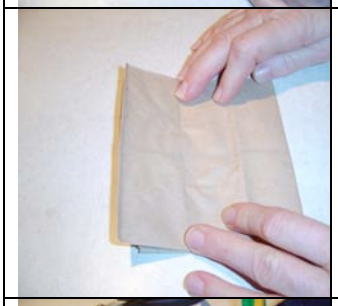
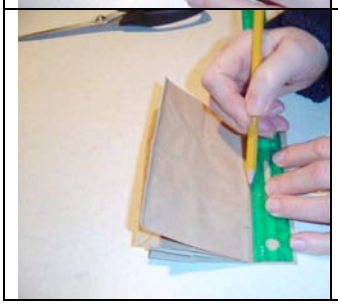
Let's Plait A Pretend Cedar Bark Basket

	1) Fold the bottom of the paper bag down to make 2 equal halves.
	2) Fold over the top of the paper bag. Fold over one more time to make the top of the bag strong.
	3) Fold the bag in half up to the folded top section.
	4) Fold over the double bottom sections. You do not want to cut slits in the bottom – only along the sides of the bag to the folded top.
	5) Measure and draw one inch lines from above the bottom of the bag to the folded top.

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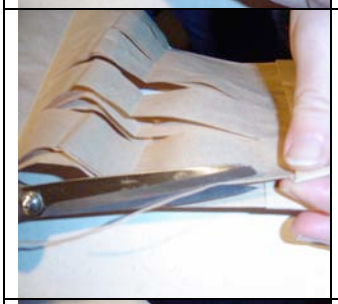
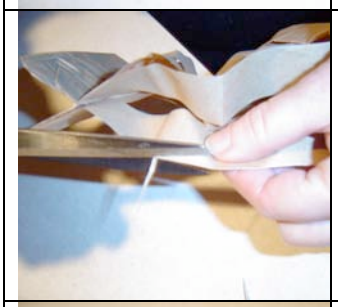
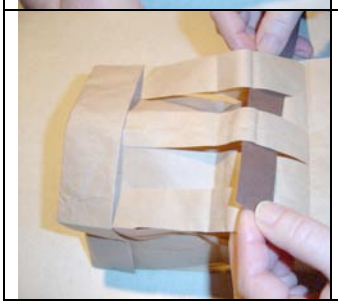
	6) Make one inch cuts along the drawn lines.
	7) Cut narrow snips along the edges on one side of the bag to continue the slits on the edges.
	8) Cut narrow snips along the edges on the opposite side of the bag.
	9) Open the bag carefully.
	10) Weave a one inch brown construction paper strip through all of the slits in the bag, weaving over and under.

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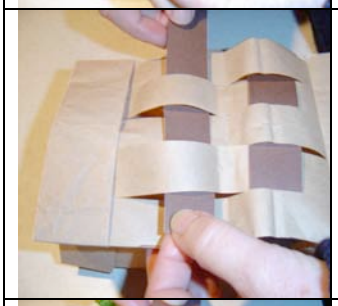
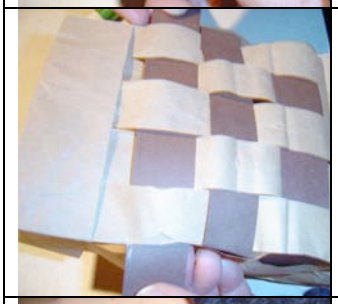
	11) Glue the beginning of the strip to the end of the strip.
	12) Weave a second strip of construction paper, weaving under and over and glue.
	13) Continue weaving until the slits are filled.
	14) You can staple a paper handle on your bag if you wish.
	15) You made a beautiful paper basket!

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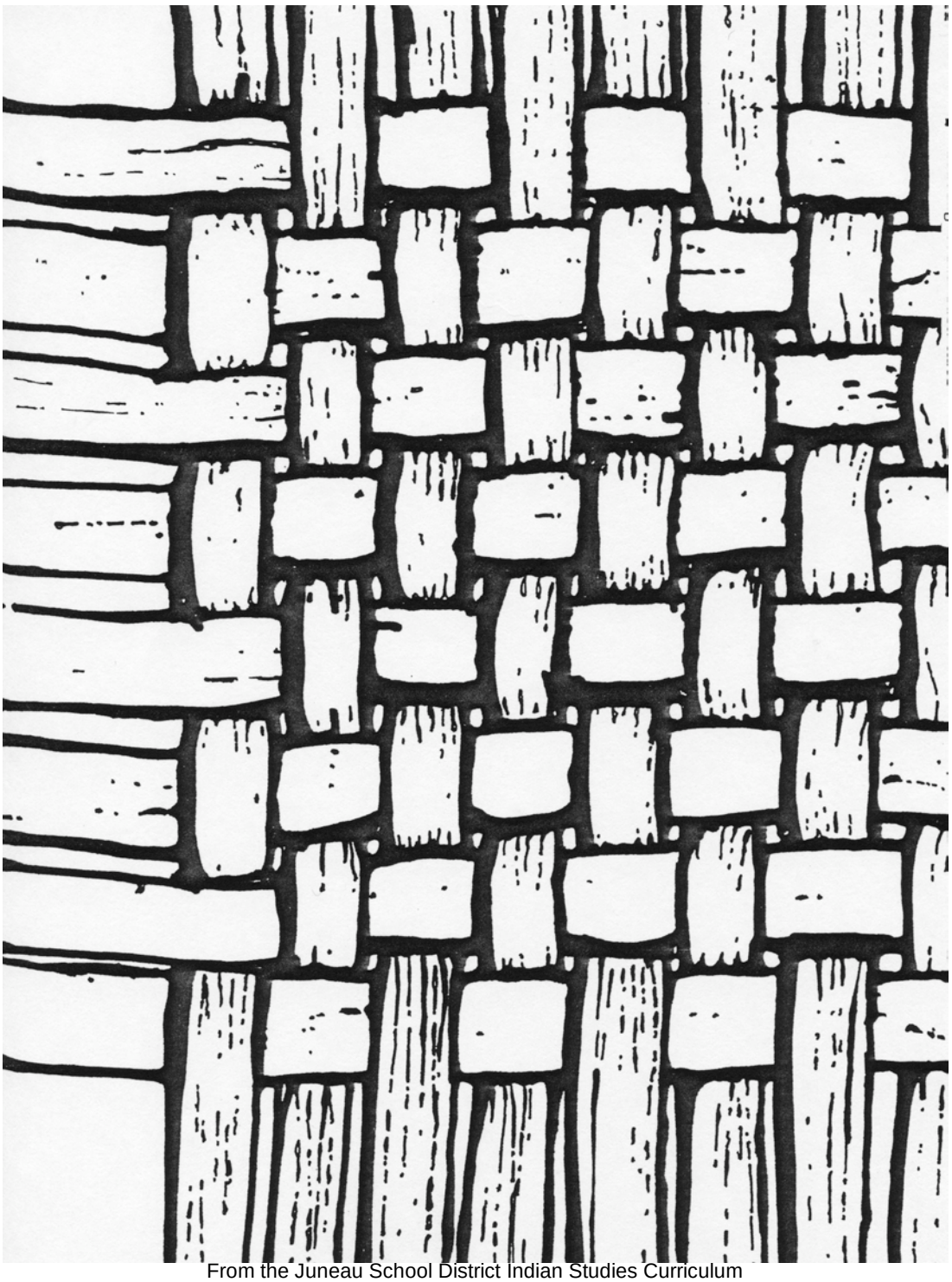
Plaiting with Construction Paper



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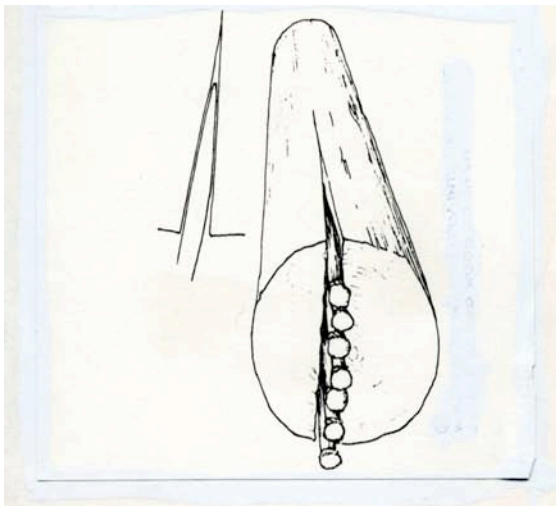

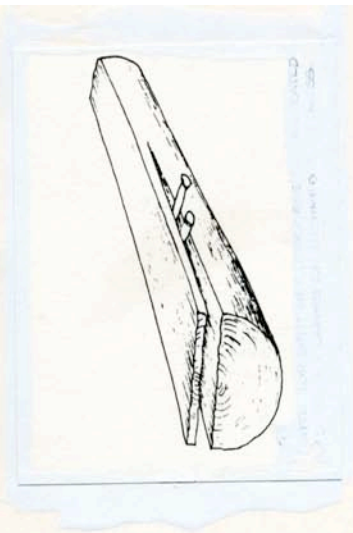

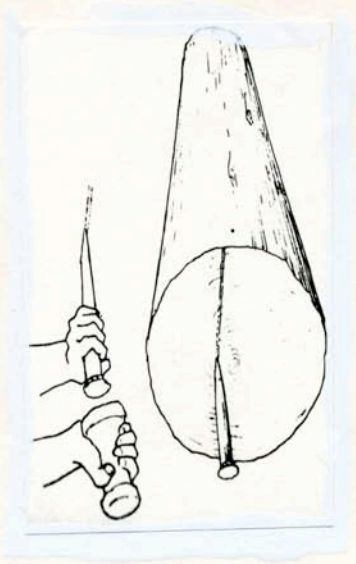

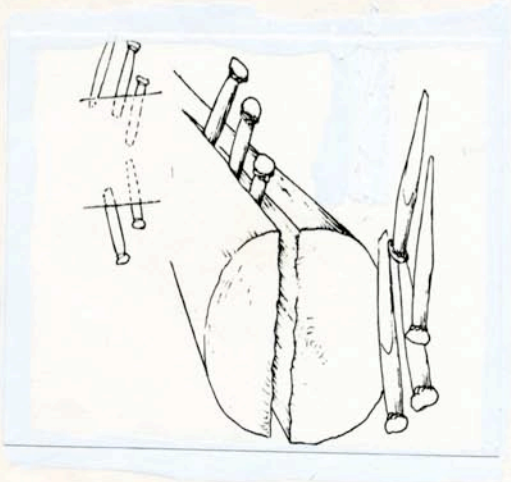

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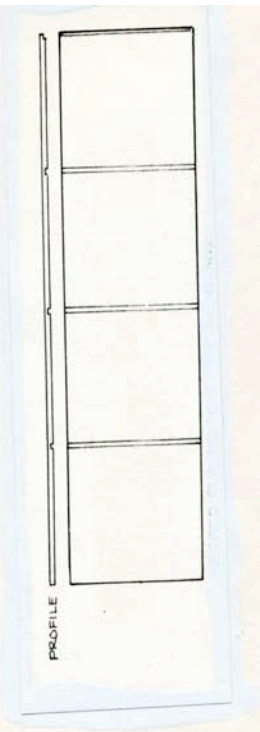

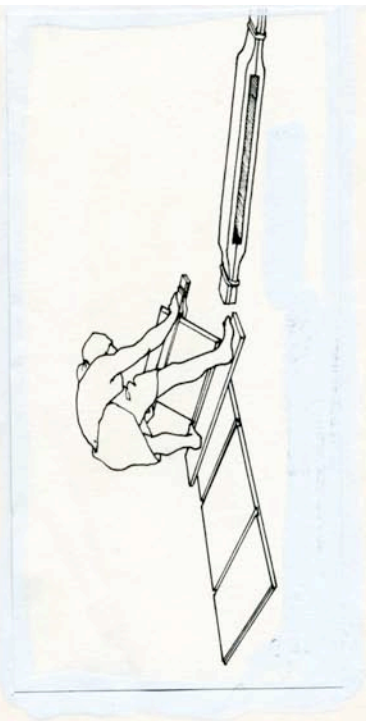

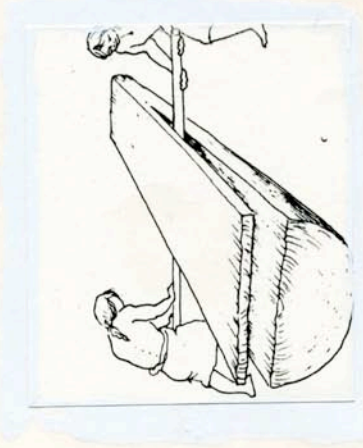

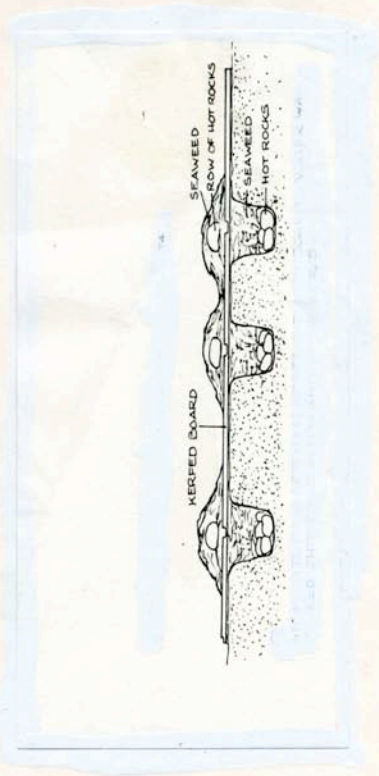

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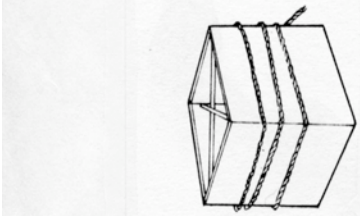

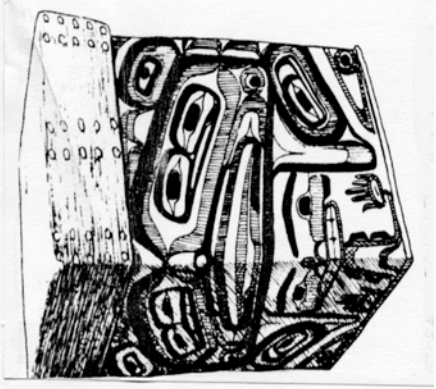

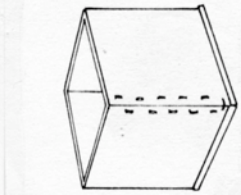

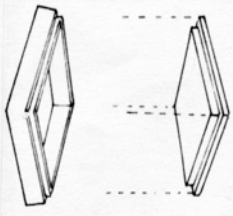

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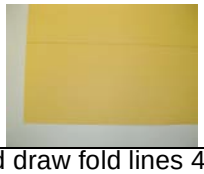
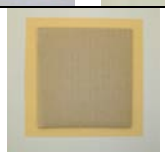
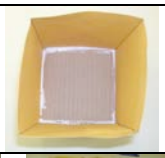
Paper Bentwood Box

Materials needed:
1 – 12” x 18”piece of brown construction paper
1 - 4”x 4”card board
Glue
Ruler
Red Paint
Paint Brush
Container paint

	1. Measure and cut construction paper 5” x 18” 
	2. Measure and draw fold lines 4” x 5” on the 5” x 18” piece of construction paper. Fold on lines to form a box.
	3. Put glue on the 2” x 5” rectangle. Glue box together.
	4. Measure and cut at 5” x 5” piece of brown construction paper and a 4” x 4” piece of card board. Glue the card board piece to construction paper. This will form the base of your box
	5. Put a bead of glue around the inner perimeter of the box.
	6. To complete the box paint the corners red or color glue a moiety design on the sides of the box.

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Moiety Designs

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Xáay ka Laax - Red and Yellow Cedar Unit
Tlingit Components

Lesson 1

Vocabulary

1.	cedar bark	*teey woodí*
2.	needles	*gítgaa*
3.	bark	*at looní*
4.	coness	*'óos'ani*
5.	branches	*a t'áni*
6.	root	*xaat*
7.	rough	*kasix'áx'*
8.	smooth	*kalix'ílx'*
9.	soft - fluffy	*kalix'wal'shan*
10.	tree people (spirit of the trees)	*aas kwáani*

Phrases

11.	Let's find a cedar tree.	*Xáay aasí gaa kuxtooshee.*
12.	Put your hand in the box.	*Kook toodei nashí.*
13.	What do you feel?	*Daakw aa sá jee idinook?*
14.	Does it feel rough?	*Kasix'áx' yáx gé jee idinook?*
15.	Does it feel smooth?	*Kalix'ílx'i yáx gé jee idinook?*
16.	Does it feel soft?	*Kalix'wal' shani yax gé jee idinook?*
17.	I feel bark.	*At looní jee xdinook.*
18.	It is (rough).	*(Kasix'áx') áwé.*

Lesson 2

Vocabulary

19.	trunk	*aas k'eeyi*
20.	heartwood	*atu.eetí*
21.	bark	*at looní*
22.	inner bark	*at láx'i*
23.	knife	*lítaa*
24.	tree rings/years	*at katáagu*
25.	basket	*kákw*
26.	mat	*nadaakw kagaají*
27.	hat	*s'áaxw*
28.	rope	*tíx'*

Phrases

29.	Let's get to know a yellow cedar.	*Xáay eex sh tooskoo.*
30.	Let's gather cedar bark.	*Teey woodí yax toosaháa.*
31.	What's under the bark?	*At looní daa sá atayeewú?*
32.	It has layers.	*Woosh kinaa yei duwa.oo.*
33.	Cedar bark is gathered in spring.	*Taakw.eetíx' teey woodí woosh káadei yei daa dunéi núch.*
34.	The bark is pulled from the tree.	*Aasdáx aax gaxyees'éil' wé teey woodí.*
35.	We will thank the tree.	*Gunalchéesh yoo yagaxtusakáa wé aas.*
36.	The inner bark is separated.	*Wooshdáx a láx'i yei ndusnéich.*
37.	We're going to make pretty baskets.	*Shak'ligeiyi kákwx' yei gaxtusanéi.*

Lesson 3

Vocabulary

38.	rope neck ring	*kaséik'w*
39.	hat	*s'áaxw*
40.	box	*kóok*
41.	canoe	*yaakw*
42.	basket	*kákw*
43.	trade	*woosh daséix'un wool.át*
44.	weave	*da.aak*
45.	cut it	*naxáash*
46.	over	*a kaanáx*

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47. under *atayeenáx*

Phrases

48. A (basket) is made from cedar bark. *Xaay daayi (kákw) dulyéix.*
49. Lets weave a mat. *Nadaakw gaaji gatu.aak.*
50. Lets weave a basket. *Kákw gatu.aak.*

Lesson 4

Vocabulary

51. mural *x'éen*
52. sun *gagaan*
53. water *héen*
54. plants *ka.éix átx'i*
55. trees *aas*
56. eagle *ch'áak'*
57. raven *yéil*
58. squirrel *kanals'áakw*
59. forest ecosystem *as gutú kusteeyí*

Phrases

60. We're going to make a mural. *X'éen yéi gaxtusanéi.*
61. Let's make a mural. *X'éen yei naxtusanéi.*
62. What's in a forest? *Daa sá at gutuwú?*
63. Draw an animal. *Kudziteeyí át yaháayi kayshaxít.*
64. Draw a plant. *Ka.éix át yaháayi kayshaxít.*
65. Color it. *Kaylasék'w.*
66. Cut it out. *Aax kei xaash.*
67. Glue it onto the mural. *X'éen kát kaylas'ix'w.*

Lesson 5

Vocabulary

68. bentwood box *lákt*
69. plank *t'áa*
70. kerf (shallow cut) *ch'á yei googéink' áwé yoo duwaxashk'*
71. adze *xút'aa*
72. wedge *yees*
73. steamed *xáay tooyei xwa.oo*

Phrases

74. All living things have a spirit. *Ldakát at a yakgwahéiyaagu kudzitee.*
75. The tree is cut down. *Wé aas wududligeech.*
76. The tree is thanked. *Gunalchéesh yoo yawdudzikaa wé aas.*
77. Let's make a bentwood box. *(Lákt) gatoolayéx.*
78. The plank has three kerfs cut into it. *Nas'kidaheen gaxyeexaash wé t'áa.*
79. The plank is steamed. *Wé t'áa xáay too yéi xwa.oo.*
80. The plank is bent. *Kadulk'waat' wé t'áa.*
81. Right from the steam you're going to bend it. *Xaay toodax kagaxyila k'waat' wé t'áa.*
82. Bend it. *Kalak'wat'.*
83. Paint it. *Naneegwál'.*

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