

# Kunu's Basket

## A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

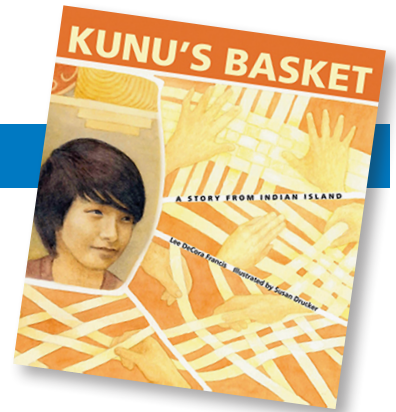
**Themes:** American Indian Culture, Traditions, Family, Perseverance

**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, make connections:** Where do you usually see baskets? How are most baskets made today?

**After reading, ask questions:**

- ◆ Why is Kunu making a basket?
- ◆ Why doesn't he want his father to help him?
- ◆ What does "gwos" mean?
- ◆ How did Kunu's grandfather learn to make baskets?

**While reading, make inferences:** Why is making baskets important to Kunu's family? Whom do you think Kunu will teach to make baskets?

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### PENOBSCOT FRY BREAD

Ingredients: 2 cups all purpose flour, 2 tsp. cream of tartar, 1 tsp. baking soda, 1/2 tsp. salt, 1 cup water, 3 tbsp. oil

Mix the first five ingredients. Heat the oil in a pan. Spoon batter into the pan and fry on both sides. Enjoy!

### GENERATION TO GENERATION

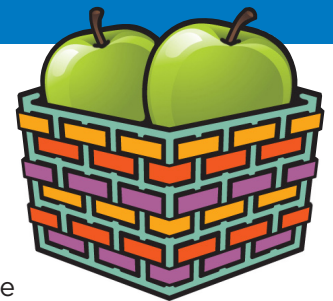
Kunu's grandfather teaches him a family tradition. What can you share with your child? A recipe, a song, a game you used to play? Take the time to teach your child something special about your family, even if that just means sharing a story.



### EASY WEAVING

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 across the top.



### TECHNOLOGY LINK

Go to [www.outdusis.com/aboutpam.html](http://www.outdusis.com/aboutpam.html) for pictures and information about a Penobscot master basket weaver.

## 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).



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