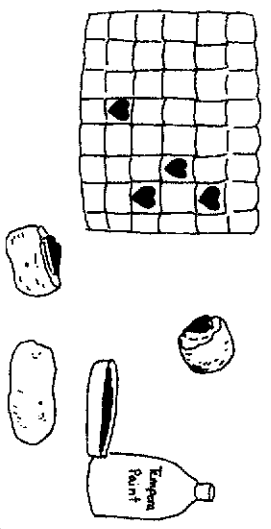




The Indians in the New England area, like the Mohegans, used long flat pieces split from hardwood tree logs. They used potatoes and paint to stamp designs on their finished baskets. You can decorate your woven mat the same way. Cut a raw potato in half. Use a spoon or knife to carve out a design, then press the potato into bright tempera paint and stamp your design all over the woven mat. The Indians would have used berry paints for theirs.



Print designs with potato shapes and paint.

Basket

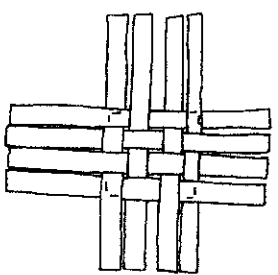
Instead of tagboard, you can use newspaper. Cut full sheets of newspaper apart at the center fold. Fold each piece lengthwise 3 times and put a bit of glue along the crease to hold its shape. Lay down 4 strips, all in the same direction. Weave 4 more strips over and under them, pushing all the strips close together in the center. Staple them together at the corners. Fold and crease all the strips to turn upwards. This will give the basket its shape. When you get to the end of a strip, staple another one over it. For the last row at the top, bend and staple strips along the edge. Interesting effects can be created using 2 colors of tagboard or using the colored comics sections from the newspaper.

Lay 4 strips side by side.



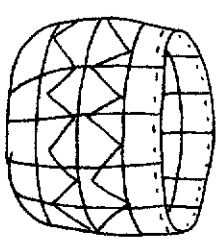
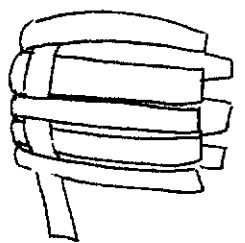
MATERIALS

- 14 strips of tagboard, 20 by 1 inches
- Stapler
- Scissors



Weave 4 more strips over and under. Staple the corners.

Fold the strips up. Weave the rest of the strips over and under.



Fold and staple the ends when finished. Paint it.

