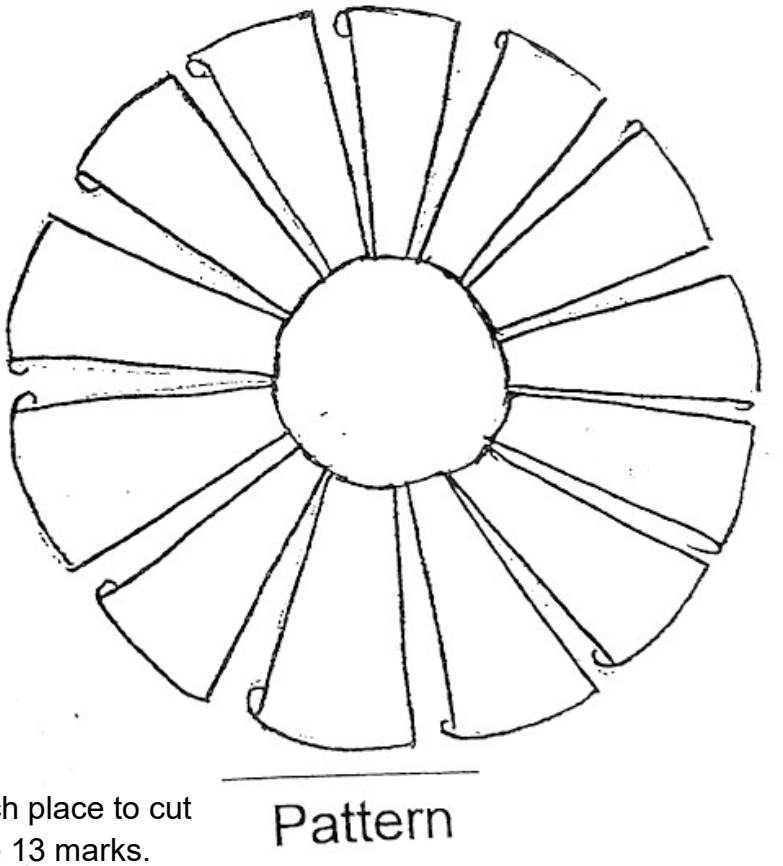
Woven Buka-Style Basket

The strongest and most beautiful baskets in all the South Pacific are woven on the islands of Bougainville and Buka, the two main islands of the North Solomons. Buin, a small town on the south end of Bougainville, is said to be the real source of ese well-know baskets, but tourist know them as Buka baskets. The Northern Solomons are a part of our Companion Synod—the New Guinea Islands District.

Materials

- 9 oz Solo Cup—short, clear plastic style (others may be tried)
- Raffia—natural colors (brown, gold, natural)
- Scissors—student size Fiskers; teacher will need stronger shears to start the thick edge of the cup.
- Elmer's glue—may be needed to secure the end.



Pattern

Preparation

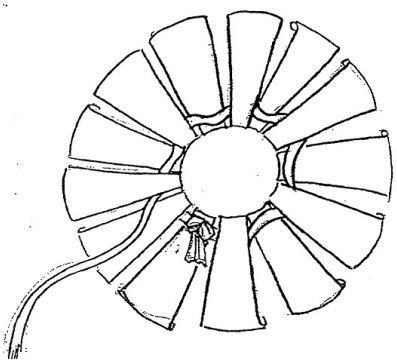
For younger children, mark and cut the spokes ahead of time and tie on first strip of raffia. Older children can make and cut their own spokes.

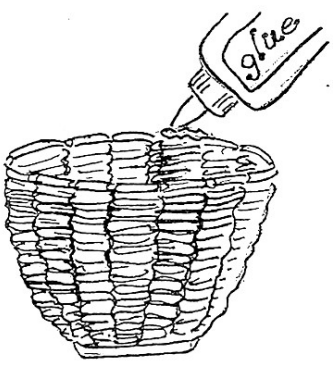
Procedure

- Place the cup on the pattern and mark each place to cut with a permanent marker. There should be 13 marks. (Standard weaving requires an uneven number.)



- An adult should cut through the thick edge of the cup at each mark. Then the child can cut as straight and smooth as possible down almost ot the bottom of the cup. There is a little ridge where the cup becomes a little smaller. Stop at that ridge if possible. If the cut goes past that ridge, that is no problem
- Tie a piece of raffia around a spoke and start to weave. It seems that going to the right (counter clockwise) works better.





- To continue when you run out, tie a new piece of raffia to the existing piece. This is how to change colors too.
- When you reach the top, use a little glue to secure the end.

Adapted from VBS resources provided by the Virginia Synod, following visits to our companion synod, the Islands District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea.