

## Activity: Basket Weaving



Good Morning Class 5,

For this week, alongside the project, you are going to be weaving a pine needle basket. Importantly – if you could not find any pine needles in your area, please let me know so I can send you instructions on a different kind of basket.

Here's what you will need:

- Pine Needles (green or brown)
- A pot and boiling water
- A wet tea towel
- Some strong thread, wool or waxed twine.
- A needle with a large eye
- Pliers (optional, for pulling the needle through tough bits)
- Thick paper
- Sticky tape

### Step 1: *Preparing the needles*

Gather all your pine needles into a pot, with all their pointy ends facing one way. The amount of pine needles you see here made the basket size pictured above, so if you think you have too few you may need to go on another pine needle trek! Better to have too many than too few.



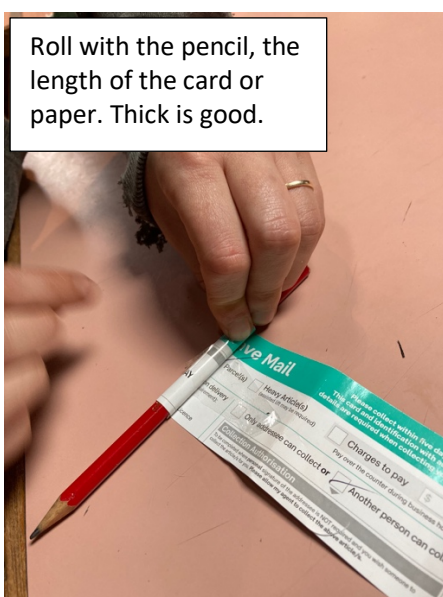
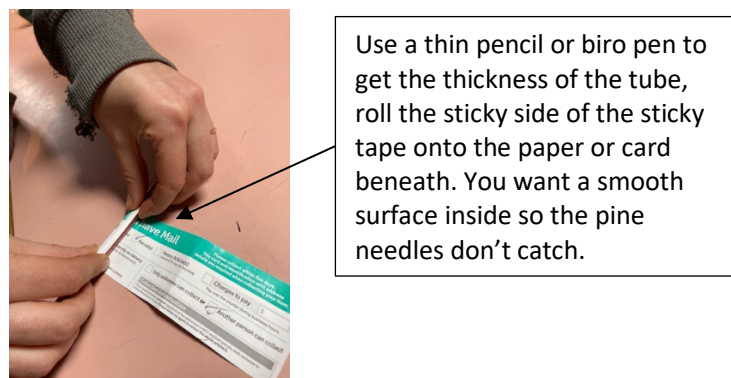
Step 2:

Pour boiling water over the needles, and leave with the lid on for half an hour (30 minutes).

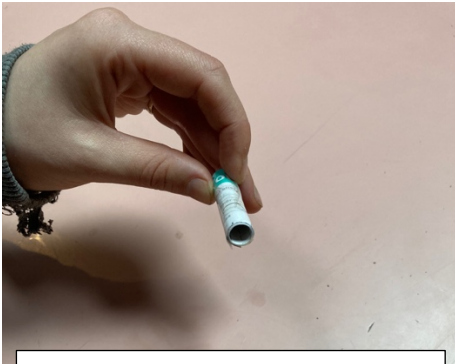


### Step 3: Making the Sizing Tube

While that's soaking, you need to make a tube the thickness of a thin led pencil or biro pen. I used an old package slip, you could use some thick paper, even paper will work, you just need to wrap it around a few times for so it stays firm. This tube is going to be used to fit the needles through as you sew, so that is all remains the same thickness. This will make sense tomorrow when we begin sewing. For now, see the pictures below with instructions on how to make the tubing.







Take out the pencil and you now have your sizing tube,

#### Step 4: *Final Gathering*

Ok, so once the pine needles have finished soaking, carefully drain the hot water out (perhaps ask parent's help with this) and wet a tea towel cloth with cold water. Wring it out, and make sure it is completely damp. Lay the wet pine needles on this tea towel. This is how they will need to be stored, in this tea towel which needs to remain damp. Make sure the needles are all pointing the right way.



Keep them wrapped and put them in the fridge when you're not using them, this will keep them soft!

Find a needle and lots of thread. Each time you take more thread, take two arms-length.



A needle with an eye at least this big.

### Step 5: *Final Preparation*

Lastly for today, you need to strip all the pine needles of their knobbly ends! Try not break them off, try to slide off the nobs with your finger nails so that you still have a clump of needles in the end, they just won't end all knobbly. If they do snap, don't worry you can still use those needles.



It should, with a bit of effort, slide off! It gets much easier when you get the hundredth one or so!



Then, place all of your stripped pine needles in your damp tea towel, in the fridge (hopefully there is room and this is ok) and store your sizing tube with a needle and lots of strong thread in a place where you can easily get them tomorrow when we start sewing! Hope your fingers and hands get a good rest because they'll be busy this week 😊