

SAINT LOUIS ART MUSEUM

Art Quest: Woven Together

Art: [Covered Vessel with Relief Design of Arabic Inscription in Kufic Script](#)

[Tripod Food Vessel \(ding\) with Design of Zoomorphic Masks, Dragons, and Spiral Patterns](#)

[Basket](#)

The containers linked above were made for cooking, storing, or serving food. Learn about the different materials used to make these containers, observe the interesting patterns and designs on these objects, and weave a special placemat with materials found at home.

Woven Paper Placemats

Suggested materials:

card stock paper, patterned paper or magazines, glue or tape, pencil, markers, crayons, scissors, ruler

Instructions for making your placemat:

Take a thicker piece of paper such as card stock, roughly 8.5" x 11" in size. This will be the base for your placemat. Fold the paper in half by making a hamburger fold. To create a hamburger, fold the paper in half horizontally.



Using a ruler, measure and mark lines on the fold to create approximately half-inch strips or sections. These lines can be straight, wavy, or zig zag lines. Cut along the marked lines starting from the folded edge of the paper, leaving about an inch at the end uncut. Open the folded paper to see the sliced lines.

Pick a patterned or different color piece of paper to contrast the plain card stock paper you just cut. Measure and mark lines at half inch or any measurement you like on the vertical side of the paper. Cut along these marked lines to make long strips. Now you are ready to weave!

Weave the paper strips into the slits cut in the placemat. Starting from the back, bring the first strip up through the first slit and down through the second slit. Continue weaving the strips up and down through the slits. Arrange the strips or sections so they are evenly spaced in the slits. Glue the ends of the strips to the placemat. This is to keep the strips from sliding out of place. Cut the long ends of the strips of paper. Once the glue is dry, it is time to decorate your placemat.

Using markers or any coloring supplies you may have at home, decorate the card stock paper that is visible, with patterns.

