Winterberry Activities

Design A Grass Basket

Paint a basket design inspired by natural berry dyes!

People across Alaska use the berries, bark and leaves of various plants to make colorful dyes. One way to use these dyes is to color beach grass, then weave it into baskets. Try making your own colorful basket design!

<u>Left:</u> Coiled Grass Basket by Lizzie Chimiugak, UA81-003-0078AB.

Materials Needed:

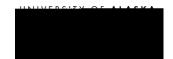
Grass Basket template, watercolor paints, paintbrus (pastional: Paper, pencil, crayons or colored pencils.

Instructions:

Step 1:Look at the basket pictures on the next page. What colors do you see? What kind of patterns did the artist make?

Step 2:Plan your own grass basket design. Think about what kinds of colors will be in your design. You can copy a design from the basket pictures, or come up with your own!

Optional: Sketch a picture of 1.999(wir) 005(Opta09()]TJ)-5(nk()]TJ)-5Ha9o.995



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Berry Dyes in Alaska

People across Alaska use the berries, bark, and leaves of various plants to make colorful dyes. Here are a few examples:

- The Dena'ina people traditionally use **highbush cranberries** or currants to makeed, and blueberries fopurple.
- The Gwich'in Dené (Athabascan) people traditionally use the berries of the strawberry spinach plant to make.
- The Yup'ik people traditionally dye beach grains with lowbush cranberries and lack with crowberries.
- You can also use raspberries to makeple, cloudberries or strawberries forpink, or soapberries fored.

Dying fabric with blueberries.

Plants are used to dye materials such as beach grass, porcupine quills, hides, birchbark,



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Grass Basket Template

