

# Basket

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This bark basket with lid is round. The vennyery features bark loops called K8wis, colored red and green.

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Accession Number 2022.34.1-2

Materials dye, wood, black ash

Measurements 18 x 27 cm

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## Historical context

Basketry has always been an important part of Native life south of the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes. One of the most widely used materials is the ash splint. These are obtained by beating an ash log with the back of an axe. This removes the tree's annual growth layers. These strips are then slit to the desired thickness and width. They are then ready to be interwoven using various techniques to create baskets for a variety of uses.

This basket is decorated with diamond-shaped k8wis. K8wis are ash loops obtained by turning the ash splinters in various ways during braiding. This type of decoration, very elaborate and widespread among First Nations, gives basketry an aboriginal character.

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