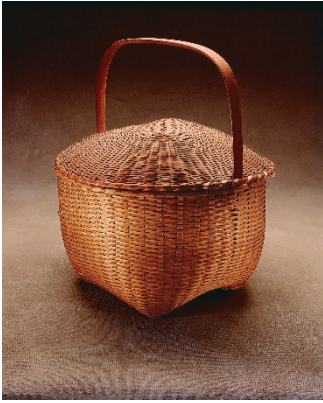


Baskets from the Fruitlands Museum Collection



From the **Shaker** collection, here is a Cathead basket from the 1850s. Made by the Shaker sisters of Harvard, MA or Lebanon, NY, it could be used as a sewing basket to hold a small sewing project. It is woven from ash splints. When turned upside down, the bottom is squared, and the four corners look like cat ears.



This is a work basket that once belonged to *Little Women* author, Louisa May Alcott. A work basket was a common household item in the 1800s, and could serve many purposes, such as, storing items that needed mending, or for shopping on market days. This basket from 1860s is now part of the **Fruitlands Farmhouse** collection.



This basket container is made from birchbark that is folded and stitched with spruce root. It was crafted by Indigenous people of Northeast Canada in the 1920s. This small basket could be used for gathering nuts, and berries, or for storing small items. This basket is exhibited in the Fruitlands **Native American Gallery**.

Look for baskets in your home. What different kinds of baskets did you find? Make a list.

_____	used for _____	made of _____
_____	used for _____	made of _____
_____	used for _____	made of _____
_____	used for _____	made of _____

Make your own basket: There are numerous [instructional videos on YouTube](#) from which you can make baskets by weaving paper strips, branches, string, or yarn that you can likely find inside and outside your home.

Research basketmaking from both historical and contemporary perspectives.

More on Fruitlands Museum: We look forward to welcoming you to Fruitlands Museum in Harvard, Massachusetts to see these baskets in person—and to see so much more from our varied collections, historic buildings, and interpretive nature-history trails.