

Nisqually Basket Making

The materials for all baskets were gathered during late or early summer. The bear grass and other materials needed to be dried.

Blood of Mother Song

- Coiled cedar root
- Bear grass
- Dyed cherry bark

The song is the design of the basket; the basket maker knew this song. It was made to hold water and other moist materials.

Cedar Root Berry Basket

- Coiled cedar root
- Bear grass
- Dyed cherry bark

This basket was used to store dried berries for winter. The piking baskets were made differently. The design represents berries. This basket was also water proof.

Eyes of the Great Spirit

- Bear grass
- Dyed cherry bark
- Equisetum-cedar root base

The design tells about the great spirits story. Part of the design has people in the design. This basket was water-proof. It was a storage basket for bigger food items; these items could be fresh.

Kalama Family Basket

- Coiled cedar bark
- Bear grass
- Soaked cherry bark

The design of the basket could have been a story of the family, an event or a family member; all important parts of the Kalama family. The Kalama family was a large family within the Nisqually Tribe. This basket was made for storage, such as dried fish or dried meat. It could have been a cooking basket also.

Baskets from all Northwest Tribes had a story or song about family, or a family member or event involving the family and/or tribe.

Examples:

- Warrior
- An Indian war
- Marriage
- Chief
- Treaty signing



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