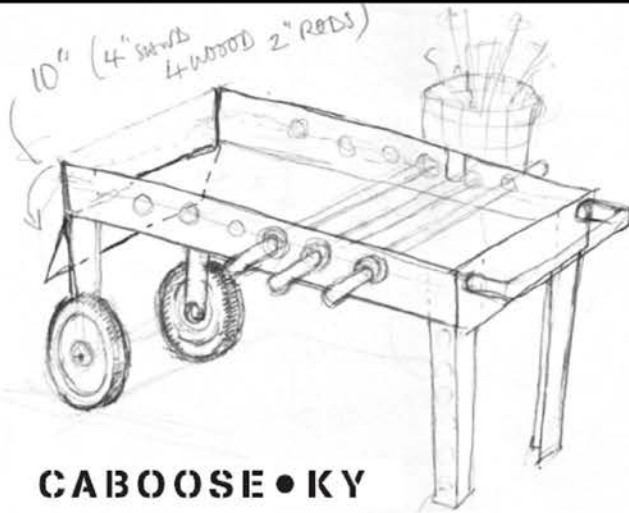
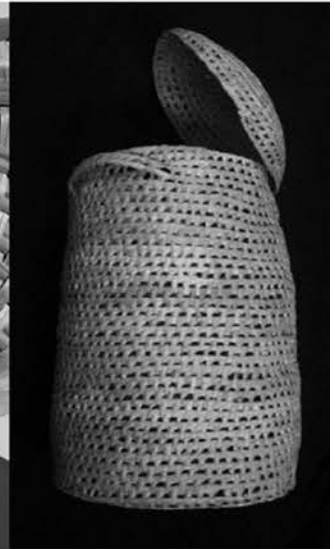


21st Century

Cayman Exhibition



CABOOSE • KY



ART ARTISTS:

- Marlena Anglin
- Shane 'Dready' Aquart
- Wray Banker
- David Bridgeman
- John Broad
- Randy Chollette
- Carmen Connolly
- Deal Ebanks
- Rosemay Ebanks
- Chris Mann
- Lizzie Powell
- Dianne Scott
- Renate Seffer
- Mike Seffer
- Gordon Solomon
- Nasaria Suckoo Chollette
- Avril Ward
- Tenson Bodden
- Miguel Powery
- Al Ebanks
- Nickola McCoy
- Charles Long
- Jane Webster



NATIONAL GALLERY
CAYMAN ISLANDS

National Gallery
Harbour Place

Members Preview:
February 25th, 2010, 5:30pm

General Opening:
February 26th, 2010

Sponsor:

Butterfield



Curator: *Natalie Urquhart*

Supported by the Cayman Islands
Traditional Arts Council

21st Century Cayman



A Rare Merging of Traditional and Contemporary Caymanian Arts

Overview:

The National Gallery has teamed up with the Cayman Islands Traditional Arts Council and sponsor Butterfield to invite our contemporary artists and traditional artisans to collaborate in 21st Century Cayman. Working in pairs, they will share skills and explore contemporary and recycled materials to re-imagine some of the time-honoured techniques that make our heritage unique.

Exhibited artworks will include Catboat sails designed with vibrant colours, hand carved and painted gigs and Waurie boards, thatch baskets plaited and embellished with bold recycled materials, larger installation pieces using traditional weaving patterns, and many others.

Ultimately, the National Gallery hopes to inspire the continuation of our traditional heritage in a way that is accessible and relevant to our youth, providing opportunities to further the skills and teachings of the traditional artists and to help support a sustainable craft industry for future generations.

Exhibition Terms:

21st Century

1. the current century which began on January 1st, 2000, and will end on December 21st, 2100.

heritage

1. something somebody is born to
2. riches of the past
3. something passing from generation to generation

culture

1. art, music, literature, and related intellectual activities
2. knowledge, sophistication and enlightenment acquired through education and exposure to the arts
3. shared beliefs, attitudes, values, customs, practices, and social behaviours of a group of people or Nation

globalisation

1. to make something become adopted globally
2. to become or make something operate at an international level

tradition

1. custom or belief
2. handing down of patterns of behaviour, practices, and beliefs that are valued by a culture

contemporary

1. modern in style
2. something that is up to date and in existence now
3. somebody or something of the current and present-day

sustainable

1. able to be maintained
2. maintaining ecological balance
3. exploiting natural resources without destroying the ecological balance of an area



21st Century Cayman

A Rare Merging of Traditional and Contemporary Caymanian Arts

What does it mean to be Caymanian in the 21st Century?

What are some of Cayman's Traditional Arts and Crafts?

- Silver Thatch twisting, plaiting, weaving, and sewing
- Making and sailing catboats
- Gig carving and spinning
- Basket weaving
- Rope making
- Carving and playing waurie boards

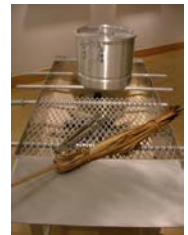


Do we use these craft items often in modern times? Why or why not?

Leonard Dilbert wrote “No love without order. No order without rule. No rule without law. No law without opinion. No opinion without prayer. No prayer without surrender. No surrender without love.” in vinyl on the walls of the National Gallery. How would you illustrate this poem?



A **Caboose** is a traditional cooking stove originating from 1) a ship's galley where the cooking is done, 2) various cast-iron cooking ranges used in galleys during the early 19th century, 3) an outdoor oven or fireplace. One of the essential elements of a caboose is a box with sand so you can have a wood fire for cooking. Why do you think it was important to have a caboose in Cayman's early days?



Jane Webster, one of the artists involved in **21st Century Cayman**, created first a catboat, then a cruise ship entirely out of matchsticks. Why do you think Ms. Webster chose these subjects for this exhibition? What do these sculptures say about the Caymanian way of life?



Catherine Conolly, the subject of John Broad and Rosemay Ebank's collage, was born in East End in 1838.

What do you think a typical day in the life of Catherine Conolly would have consisted of?

How has the average day in the life of a Caymanian changed since 1838?

Do you think the changes since 1938 have been positive or negative? Why?



The Contemporary artists involved in **21st Century Cayman** were paired up with Traditional Caymanian Crafters then challenged to create a new art form that combined both Cayman's past and present. If you were one of the artists faced with this challenge, how would you combine Cayman's traditions with modern day to create an amazing piece of art?

Many local traditions, once central to the Caymanian way of life, are under threat.

How do we ensure their continuity?

How do we hold on to our past without holding back future cultural development?



ACTIVITY ONE: WAURIE WARRIORS

Waurie

- is a game played in the Cayman Islands. Legend has it that the game was introduced to Grand Cayman by the pirate Black Beard after one of his voyages to Africa. The game uses a board of 12 holes called “bowls” and two stores at both ends called “mancalas”. At the start there are four seeds or nuts in each hole and each player claims one of the mancalas and the 6 bowls to the right of her mancala. On each turn, a player distributes the contents of one of her holes, one by one, in the counter-clockwise direction into the following holes and both mancalas. If the last seed is dropped into the player’s own mancala, she gets to move again. The turn is over if the last seed falls into a bowl or the opponent’s mancala. The game ends when all bowls of a player are empty. The player who has no seeds left in her bowls is the winner.



Nicker Seeds

- are the [seeds](#) of the gray “nickernut” shrub (*Caesalpinia bonduc*) and are maybe the most popular gaming counters used to play Waurie. The seeds are found usually in pairs, on pods protected by thorns.

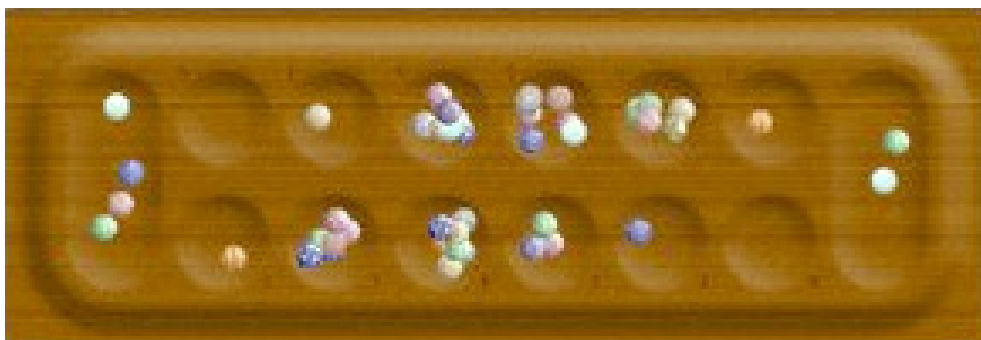


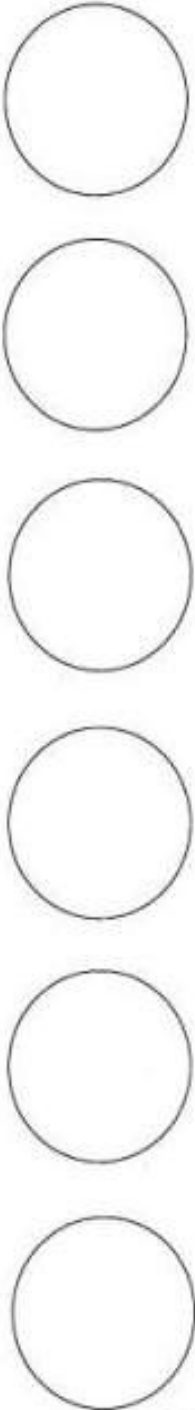
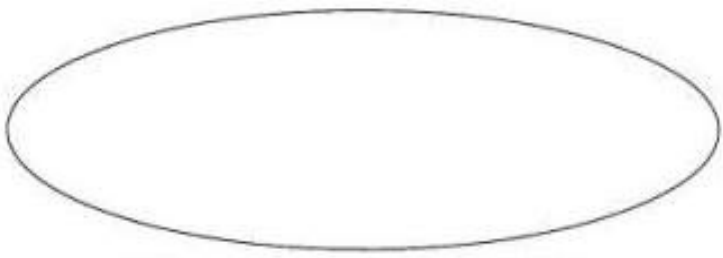
Create your own Waurie Board and Counters using:

- Paper:** Create your own Waurie Board by cutting out the pattern on the following page. Colour all of the counters and add a unique design to your waurie board.
- Sand:** Next time you’re at the beach or find a sandy patch in your yard, just dig twelve shallow holes (six on each side) and two larger pits at either end. Collect small sea shells, stones, or bits of coral for counters.
- Recycled Materials:** the twelve sections in an egg carton would make the perfect waurie board! Cut off the top of the egg carton and cut it in half to make two mancalas on either end of the twelve egg sections. Use bottle caps, pennies, or cheerios as counters.

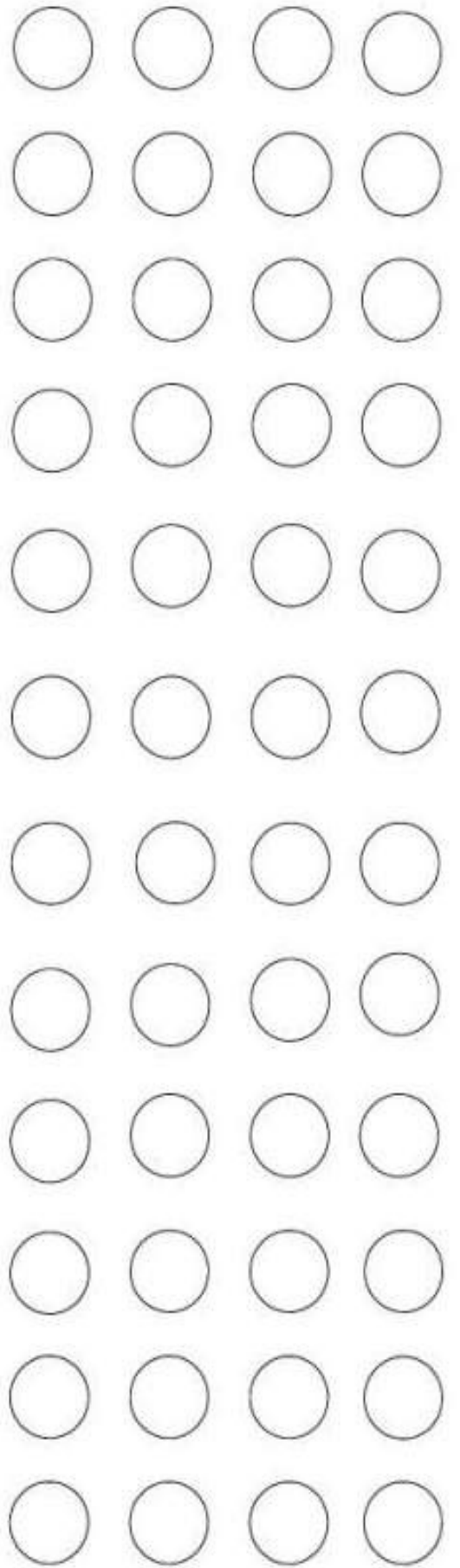
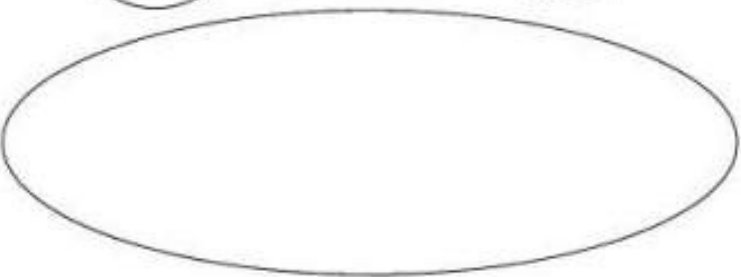
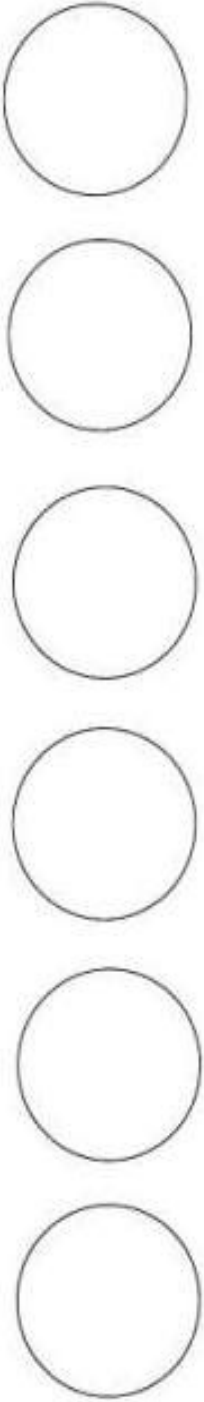
Play Waurie online at:

<http://grogware.com/waurie.php>





WALURIE BOARD



Counters

21st Century Cayman: Merging Traditional and Contemporary Cayman Arts

ACTIVITY TWO: CATBOAT CREATIONS

Catboat

- is a sailing vessel characterized by a single mast carried near the front of the boat. The exact origins of the catboat are uncertain, although it has been a very popular style of small fishing boat on the eastern seaboard of the United States of America for over 200 years. The first person known to have made a catboat in Cayman was Daniel Jervis of Cayman Brac, in 1904. *The Terror*, as this first catboat was called, took 30 days to build and Daniel took it with him on his next turtling expedition. It was such a success that everyone wanted one just like it! But catboat making was an art. **Adzes** (a cutting tool with the blade at right angles to the handle) were used to cut the timbers to the exact shape required. One sail took 63 feet of cloth, which had to be cut to shape and stitched by hand. Unfortunately, today only a few catboats remain, but the catboat will forever be remembered with affection by many Caymanians.



Courtesy of the Cayman Islands National Archive

For the **21st Century Cayman** Exhibition, six Artists were challenged to design and paint a personal catboat sail that could represent their own artistic expressions of their personal experience of and place within modern day Cayman. This is what they created:



Randy Chollette



Miguel Powery



Renate Seffer



David Bridgeman



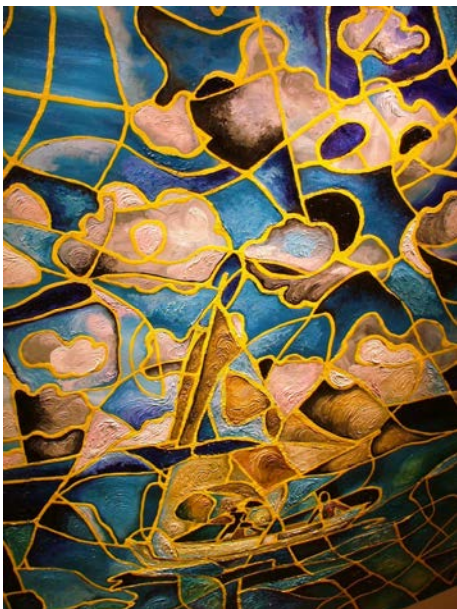
Mikael Seffer



Avril Ward

Look closely at **Randy Chollette's** sail entitled "The Kings of Satura" (pictured below).

- What are the two figures doing?
- What makes Randy's sail different from the rest?
- What do you think the artist was trying to say by painting his sail this way?



Create Your Own Catboat Sail!

To create your own catboat sail painting in the same style as Randy Chollette's "The Kings of Satura," in pencil, sketch out a rough drawing of the image you would like to depict on a bright piece of construction paper. Overtop of your drawing divide up your image into sections by drawing curving lines that go from one edge of your paper, right through your drawing to another edge. Go over each of your pencil lines with white glue then let the glue dry. Choose at least three colours to paint your sail with. Create different values (lightest to darkest) of each colour by tinting (adding different amounts of a colour to white) and then shading (adding different amounts of black to a colour) each colour. Apply different tints and shades of one colour to each section of your drawing. See how Randy contrasts dark value sections against light value sections? Try it yourself to create a cool 3-D effect!



ACTIVITY THREE: Generation Yo-Yo

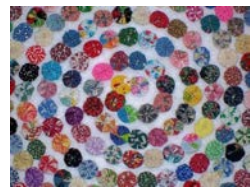
Yo-yo pattern

- is a quilting technique where tiny circles of fabric are gathered up at the edges and sewn together to create bedspreads or other items. Yo-yo quilts were popular because women could carry the little circles of fabric with them and make yo-yos whenever they had a free moment.



Create your own Yo-yo

- To create your own yo-yo using any fabric, trace around a circular object that is twice the size of your planned yo-yo size. Cut out the fabric with sharp scissors. Thread a needle and make a large knot at the end. Holding the wrong side of the fabric facing you, stitch (push your needle and thread through the fabric then back up through the other side a little further down) all around the circle. If you'd like, you can fold over a bit of the edge for a hem as you stitch but this step is not essential). Gently pull on the end of the thread to gather the edges of the yo-yo circle. Use your fingers to flatten the circle and then add 2-3 stitches at the centre opening to hold the yo-yo centre snugly in place. Now make many more and sew them together later!
- You can use Yo-yos to decorate clothes or join them together to form a fabric of yo-yos!
- Put your yo-yo pieces together and create a variety of different patterns. Can you create a pattern that looks symmetrical (balanced on all sides)?



Get Yo-Yo Inspired by Merging Old with New!

In 21st Century Cayman, Artist Jane Webster created a yo-yo pattern floor mat using recycled grocery bags instead of fabric. Why do you think this artist carefully placed four plastic bag pieces with the phrase "WE CARE" into her artwork?

Use your imagination to design a new creation made out of yo-yos. What other recycled materials could be used instead of fabric?

Artist Nasaria Suckoo Chollette, and Traditional Crafter Mrs. Carman Conolly, paired up to create a bean bag chair made out of **CROCUS SACK** (a large bag made from loosely woven, coarse material - usually hemp - and stuffed with **plant trash [pieces of the plantain tree]** traditionally used as mattresses in early Cayman days). These women then decorated the chair with yo-yos made out of modern synthetic fabrics and leather instead of using the traditional cotton fabrics.

What modern creation could you decorate with traditional yo-yos to combine old with new to produce something completely unique?



ACTIVITY FOUR: Spinning gigs

gig

- a traditional spinning top that can be spun on an axis, balancing on a point. The toy's motion is produced by holding the end of a string wound around bottom of the gig.



- **How to Spin a Gig:**

Create a loop on one end of the string large enough to fit your finger. Tie a knot on the other end of the string. Hold the knot on the neck of the top in place using your finger and begin to wrap the string around the neck so it holds the knot in place. Wrap the length of the string around the neck tightly. Hold the top at chest height and throw the top out in front of you at an even height. As you throw the top, the string will set the gig in motion.

Make your own Spinning Top

1. Start by cutting a disc out of sturdy cardboard – 4 to 8cm in diameter.
2. Decorate the disc.
3. Cut a round coffee stir stick to 6cm length or find a short pencil.
4. Poke a small hole in the centre of the disc and insert the stir stick or pencil.
5. Secure the stick with glue or plasticine.



go further ...

> Use different-sized cardboard or construction paper circles for the homemade tops and compare how they spin.

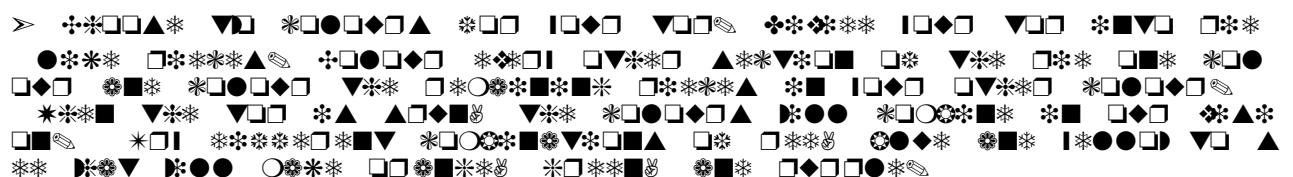
> Make tops from different materials. Try cutting circles from thin plastic plates or from unused Styrofoam meat trays. You could also use a small nail or small drill to make holes in the tin lids from frozen juice cans. Try gluing a marble to the bottom of a cd and a waterbottle cap to the top of a cd.

> Add weight to homemade tops by adding more circles or tiny pieces of play dough or plasticine. Experiment to see how the weight affects the spin of the top.

> Try using different types of axles for the top. Use different lengths of pencils, bamboo barbecue skewers or wooden dowels.

> Explore a variety of different types of tops. Be sure to check out some that use different types of mechanisms to propel them. Test them to see which type spins the best.

> Place a small amount of fine sand on a serving tray and add tops to the tray to spin. Look for spinning patterns in the sand. Experiment with different tops because some will not show a pattern.

> 

> Add a small amount of water to a large plastic serving tray and add tops for spinning. Wear a plastic apron to keep clothes dry!

> Go on a hunt to find other things that spin (e.g: hula hoops, a CD player, the dial on a play phone, etc.).

AMAZING SPINNING TOP ART

On a tarp or inside of a cardboard box or tray with sides, lay down a large piece of paper. Spin your gig or top on the piece of paper. While the top is spinning, drop watery paint onto your top (this may leave your gig more colourful than before!). Watch the paint spray out in magical patterns! Spin it again and try new colours!



Alternatives

> Use a short pencil as an axle for a top and spin on a sheet of paper to see if they can create spinning patterns. Use a variety of coloured pencils as axles.

> Place a circular piece of paper in a salad spinner and add droplets of paint while spinning to create swirling art pictures.



Let the Big Games Begin!

How Long?

"How long?" is a game that you can play by yourself or with a group. When you play by yourself, make sure that you have a stopwatch handy. Clear a flat place where your top can spin freely, and then use your thumb and forefinger to start a spin. Once the



spin has started, quickly start your stopwatch and time the length of your spin. When the top falls over, stop the stopwatch and note on a piece of paper how long it was before the top fell over. Try it again, looking to beat your previous time. If you are playing with a friend, you simply need to start spinning at the same time, and whoever has the longest spin wins the round.

Top Duel

A "top duel" is played when two tops are placed in an arena while spinning, and the first top to be knocked out of the arena is the loser. You can make your own top arena by taping off a small circle with masking tape. You can make the circle as large or as small as you want, but a smaller one will be more challenging. On the count of three, each player releases his top, spinning into the arena. Watch the boundary lines carefully, as the first top to spin outside of the lines is the loser. This is a good game to play with a larger group of people, as the winner can go on to challenge another to be the ultimate champion.



Spinning Top Bowling

Create ten bowling pins out of empty water bottles, juice boxes, or any small containers. Arrange the bowling pins in rows with 1 pin in the first row, 2 in the second, 3 in the third and 5 pins in the fourth row. Take turns spinning your top from the same distance away from the pins and see how many your spinning top can knock over. The player who knocks over the most pins wins.



Tricks

If you want to learn how to use your spinning top in different ways, learn some interesting tricks with it. You can release it by winding a string around the pin at the bottom and pulling the string taut to release it in a spinning motion. You could also learn how to flip your spinning top, especially those that have pins on both the bottom and the top. Take some time with your friends to see who can make up the most difficult or inventive tricks.

Check out <http://www.topspinning.com/tricks/index.html> for step by step trick instructions with pictures or videos.



ACTIVITY FIVE: New Age Thatching

Silver Thatch Palm

- adopted as the National Tree of the Cayman Islands, this adaptable natural resource has played an important role in the lives of Caymanians since the first settlers arrived on the islands in the early 1700's. The leaves of the Silver Thatch Palm were used as roofing and walling for the settlers' homes. But it was thatch rope that became the dominant land-based industry in Cayman for many years. Since the Silver Thatch Palm was very resistant to salt water, rope made from it was favoured by fishermen and turtlers. Families would set out at first light and spend the day cutting tops. They then carried them home in baskets made of thatch which hung down their backs on long straps. This was called "backing". Once dry, the "ribs" of the leaves were removed using a sharp knife. This was called "singling them out". The remaining strips were then separated and twisted by hand into strands to make rope. Many other useful domestic items were also made using thatch, including baskets, mats, fans, hats, and even shoes called "wompers". This was done by "notch-plaiting" or weaving the strips into ribbons, which could then be sewn together.



Straw Rope Pledge

- After the hurricane in August, 1944, which devastated the Jamaican fishing fleet, an urgent call was sent out for all the thatch rope Caymanians could produce. In 1945, over 1.5 million fathoms of rope were exported from the Cayman Islands. The demand was so great that the islanders were having trouble keeping up with it. Soon complaints were heard about short lengths and inferior quality rope. Aware that this could cause real damage to the industry, the Government of the day sent officials round the island to talk to the ropemakers, and ask them to sign a pledge promising to uphold standards. It read "I do solemnly pledge my mind and hands in the production of standard straw rope for the promotion of trade and for one common good." Some of those signing the pledge were as young as 11 years old, as much of the rope was made by women and children while the men were away at sea. The importance of the rope-making industry is recognized by the piece of thatch rope on the nation's flag.



Fathom

- a unit of length used to measure rope. There are 6 feet in one fathom. The name comes from the Old English word *fæðm* meaning embracing arms or a pair of outstretched arms.



Weaving a Thatch Flower

1. Gather 8 strips of thatch of the same width (you can split one thatch blade into several pieces).
2. Tie them all together at the bottom by making a loop and sticking all 8 ends through the loop. Pull the knot tight.
3. Hold the shiny side of the pieces facing you with the knot pointing downwards. Fold the left outside strip back behind the strip next to it and then fold it across to the right.



Butterfield

4. Weave it over the next strip and under the next strip and repeat this weaving across all the strips to the right.

5. Go back to the left side of the leaf and using the new outside strip, fold it back behind the strip next to it and then fold it across the right. Weave it over and under to the other side as before. Carry on weaving the next strips.



6. Continue folding each strip back behind and weaving to the other side until all the strips have been woven across except the last one.



7. Turn the leaf around so that this strip is pointing out to the left and the other strips are pointing upwards.



8. Fold the strip pointing to the left back behind the others and then weave it over and under to the other side.



9. Go back to the left side of the leaf and using the new outside strip, fold it back behind the strip next to it and then fold it across to the right. Weave all of the strips to the other side as before. Carry on weaving all the strips across until only one strip is left.



10. Turn the leaf around so that this strip is pointing out to the left and the other strips are pointing upwards.



11. Fold the strip pointing to the left back behind the others and then weave it across to the other side making sure that you don't weave into the knot.



12. Continue folding each strip back behind and weaving to the other side until all the strips have been woven across except the last one.



13. Turn the flower around so that you can continue weaving the next section.



14. Weave this section and then turn the flower around again and continue weaving the next sections.



15. Continue weaving around the flower until the strips are just long enough to tie a knot around them. Leave out any strips that become too short. Poke them to the back to keep them out of the way of the weaving and cut them off at the end.



16. Wind one outside weaving strip around the other ends of the other weaving strips twice then up through the bottom of the wound strips. The basic flower is now finished and can be left like this as a flat flower.



17. Another way to finish the flower is to push the tied ends through the centre to the back of the flower and then twist these ends around so that the front of the flower curls up. The curled up flower can then be tied in place by winding it around the very first knot or tying it with a separate strip looped into the back of the flower and tied over the twisted ends.



Different effects:

- Split the strips after several sections have been woven and then continue weaving the split strips as before. This changes the weave from coarse to fine.
- Weave across two blades side-by-side to make larger flowers
- Weave two smaller flowers on the same blade by using half a blade for each, starting them at different levels for a staggered effect
- Hook a safety pin through the back of the flower to attach it to your shirt or a hair band



Weaving a Thatch Wristband



The wristbands are made with a blade of thatch that is long enough to go around a wrist about four times. One end of the strip is wound around into a circle that is just big enough to fit over a hand and secured at this point (with, for example, two paper clips). The free end is split into strips of an even width and a separate weaving strip is woven through. The simple wristband pictured here has the strips split into three strips of the same width, and a separate strip the same width is laid across them, going over the outside strips and underneath the middle one.



The two outer strips are then folded back and the weaving strip is taken through the middle of the wristband and laid over across the top again. The two outer strips are now folded forward, the middle one folded back and the weaving strip taken through



the middle of the wristband and around over the top again. Join in new separate weaving strips as the old one finishes by laying the new strip over the strip that is about to run out and pushing the end of the new strip under the strips that have crossed over the old one. Continue weaving until the new strip is crossed by about four strips altogether. Now weave the end of the old strip in by turning it down at a right angle and it will be secured in as you continue weaving. These weaving steps are repeated around the wristband.

When the strips have been woven all the way around, the ends of the strips are woven back into the start of the wristband. Any other ends are threaded through the inside of the wristband and cut off. If the wristband is not quite circular, it can be pushed down over a glass or jar until it fits tightly which will help it dry into a circular shape.

Continue Creating!

Use your imagination to create a new design! Can you think of new uses for thatch?



21st Century Cayman: Merging Traditional and Contemporary Cayman Arts

ACTIVITY SIX: Nifty Natural Materials

Calabash

- is a large spherical fruit which can grow up to 50cm in diameter. The fruit's shell encloses a whitish pulp and thin, dark brown seeds. When hollowed out and dried, the hard shell of the calabash can be used as a bowl, cup, or other water container.



Driftwood

- is wood that has been washed onto a shore or beach by the action of winds, tides, and waves. Most driftwood is the remains of trees that have been washed into the ocean due to flooding, high winds, or other natural occurrences. Driftwood is shaped by the moving waters of the ocean, and by blowing sand and wind, and is therefore typically smooth and curved. Some people may see driftwood as ocean debris, but others use it to create driftwood art.



Coconut

- Is the fruit of the coconut palm tree which has a fibrous husk surrounding a large seed. The hard-shelled seed of this fruit, once it's white flesh and fluid-filled central cavity has been emptied, can be used for bowls and various craft products. But for the shell to become a product, some preparation is necessary. The shells must be soaked in water for ten to fifteen minutes or until they have absorbed the maximum amount of water. Then the outside of the shell is scraped and cleaned with a knife or spoon. Later, the shell is sanded until its surface becomes absolutely smooth and shiny. Finally, the desired patterns and shapes are outlined and carved into the shell.



Nifty Natural Material Inventions

Can you imagine what the world would be like if humans only used natural materials? Imagine that humans never began to process or manufacture synthetic and artificial materials. What would be different? Using only natural materials found on Cayman, can you invent an effective creation? Look at these pictures for ideas!

