

Weave your own basket

Because of its location next to a natural point to cross the River Thames, the site of Fulham Palace has been important to humans for a long time. Archaeological finds suggest that the site has been well visited by both travellers and settlers throughout history. Some of the earliest finds include a polished axe, from the Late Mesolithic to Early Neolithic time period, around 4,000 BC.



Regardless of whether the people were settlers or travellers, they would have had to store and transport their belongings somehow. One way of doing this was to use baskets, but since this was way before you could go to a shop and buy one, early humans would have to make them themselves.

This worksheet will introduce you to the art of basket weaving, using a simple technique that has been used by humans since ancient times.



Baskets were traditionally made from grass, straw, bark or branches, but this worksheet will teach you to weave a basket out of yarn. A piece of cardboard or a paper plate will make out the base of the basket. Using a similar method to what the early humans would have used to weave their straw baskets, you can then weave around the paper base with yarn.

There are many different ways of weaving, but this worksheet introduces the oldest and most basic type of weaving, called tabby or plain weave.



You will need:

A template (found in this worksheet)

A paper plate. It also works great on a piece of study paper, for example an empty cereal box

Yarn. The thicker the yarn is, the quicker the basket will come together

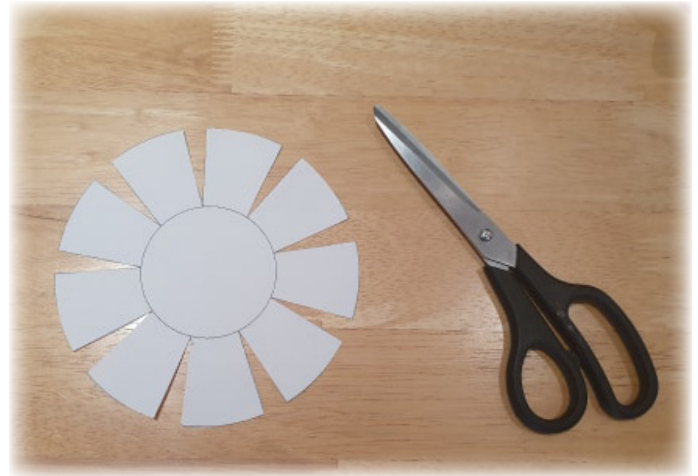
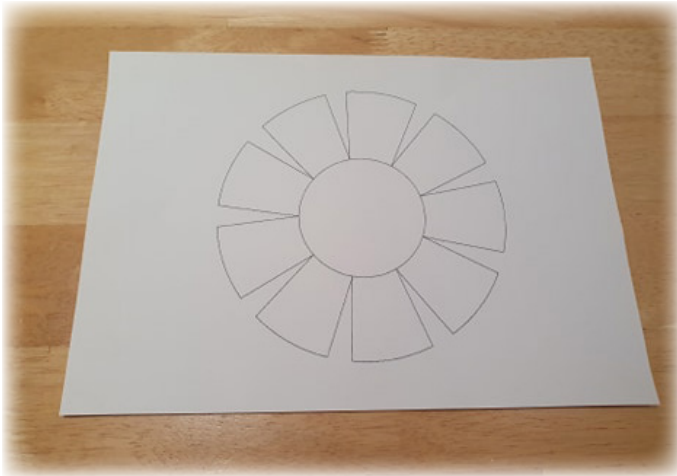
Scissors

A pencil or pen

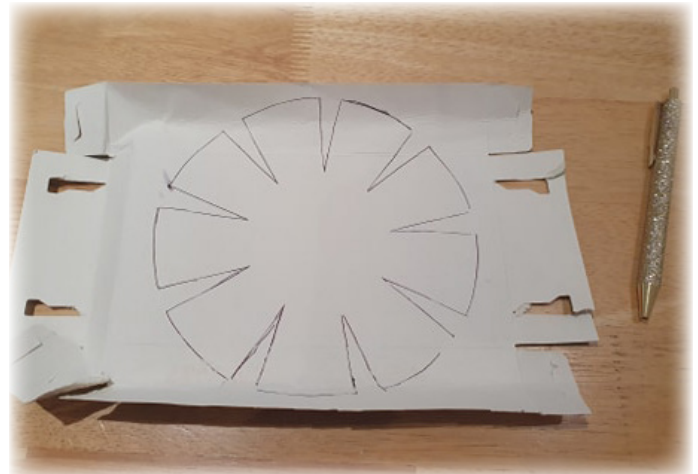
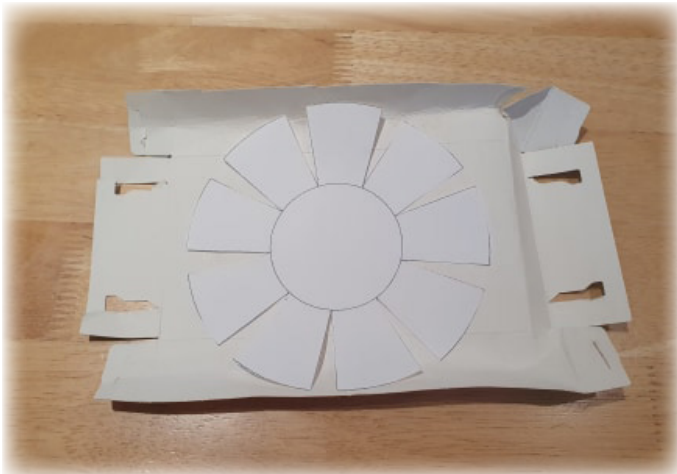
Glue (optional)

How to create your own woven basket:

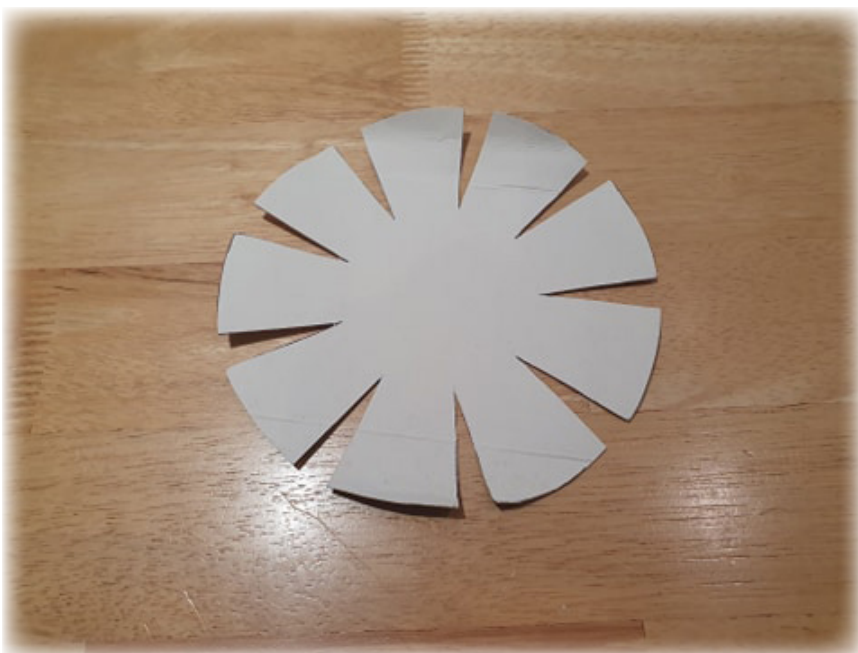
1. Print off the template page and cut along the lines, so that you have a shape that resembles a flower.



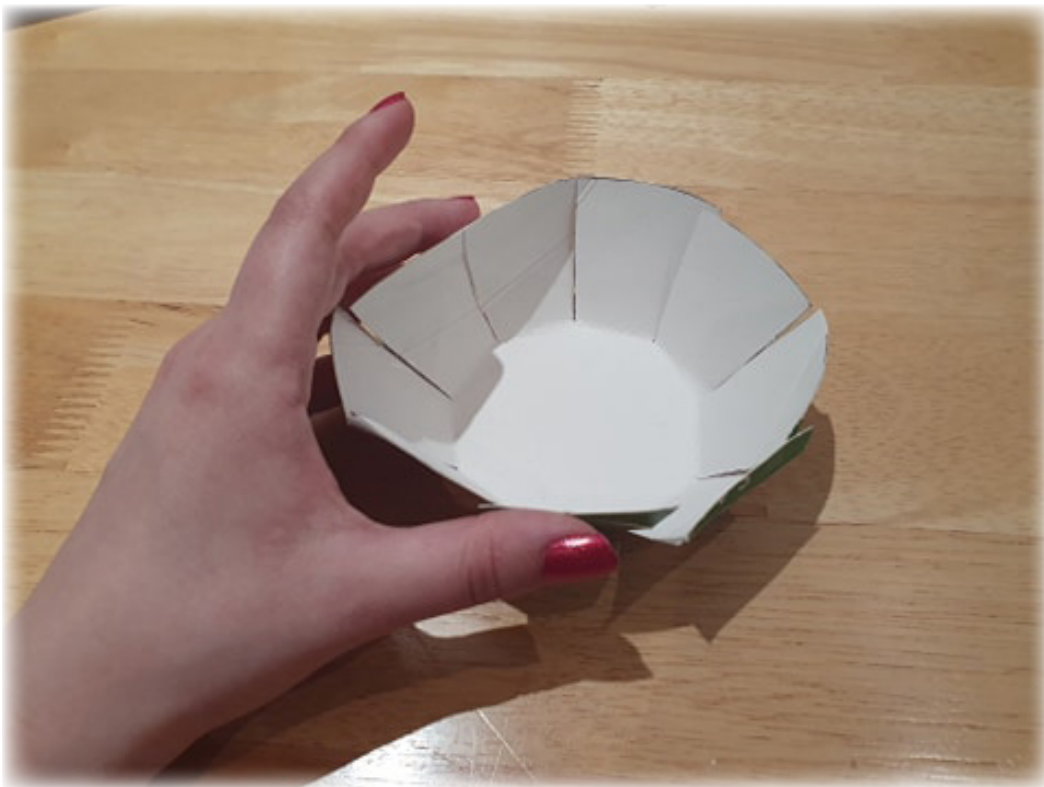
2. Place the template on a paper plate or a piece of sturdy paper. Use whatever you have at home. Trace the shape with a pen or pencil. This can be a bit tricky, so ask someone at home to hold the template while you trace it. You can also blue-tac to make the template stick.



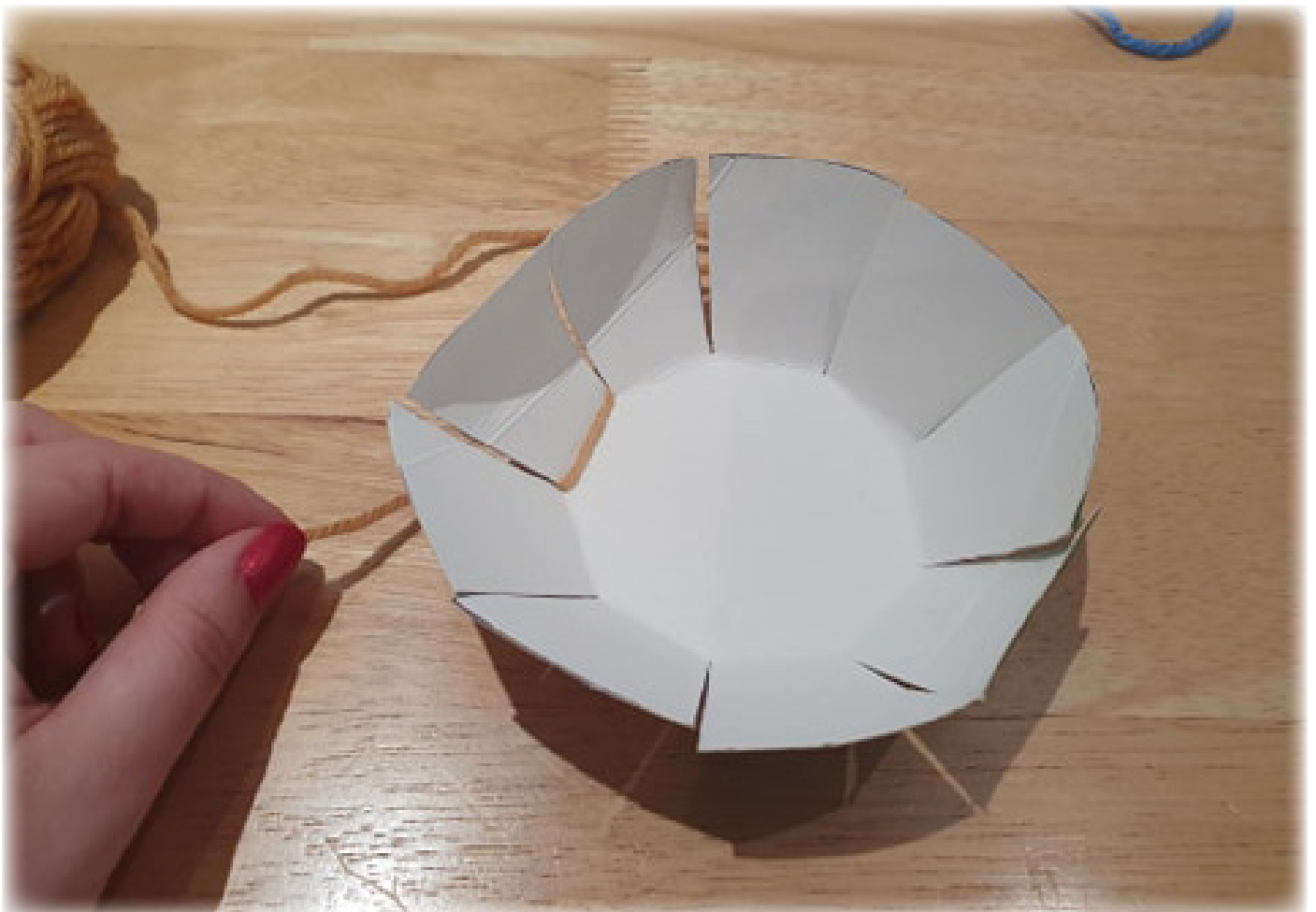
3. Cut out your paper plate or sturdy paper template.



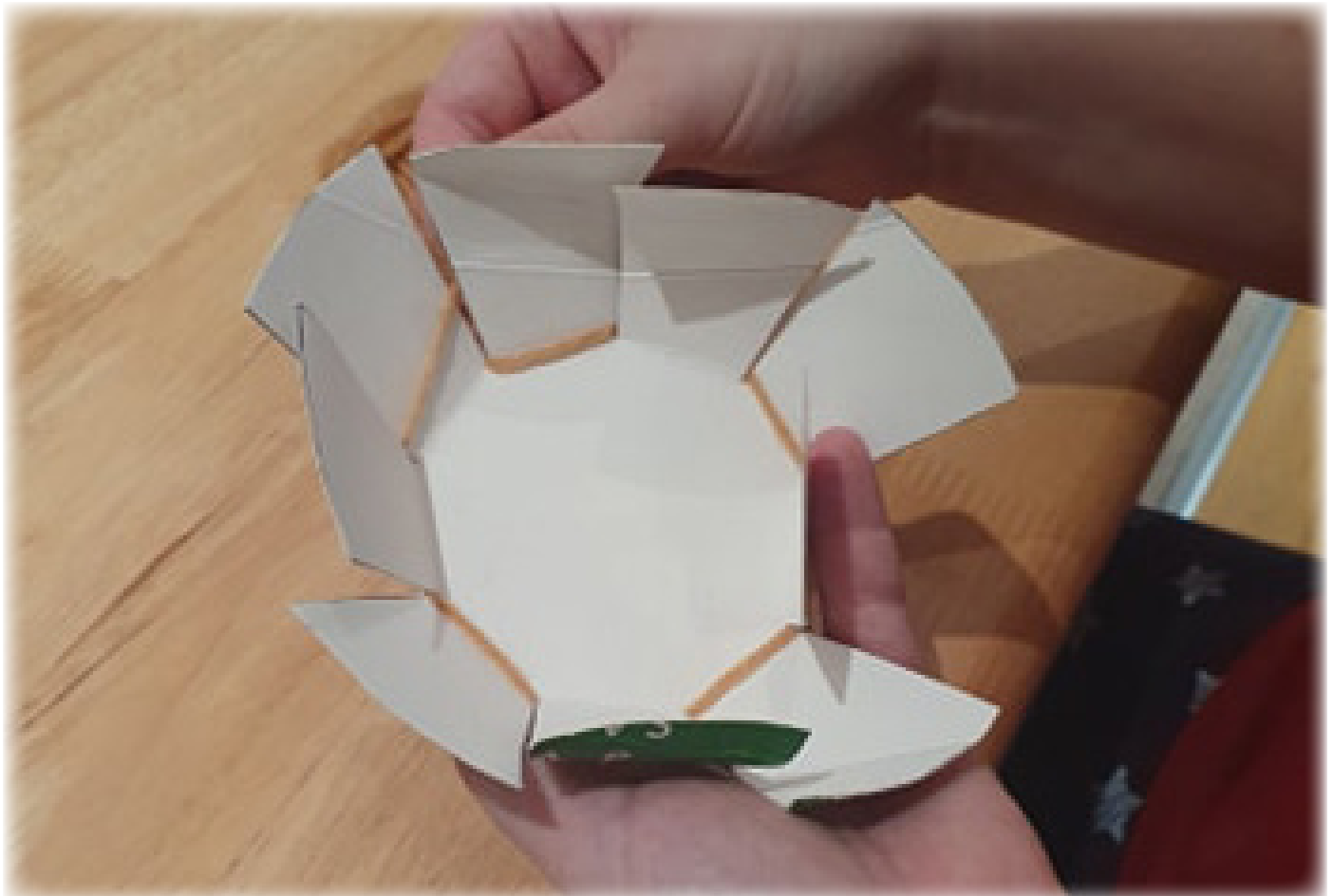
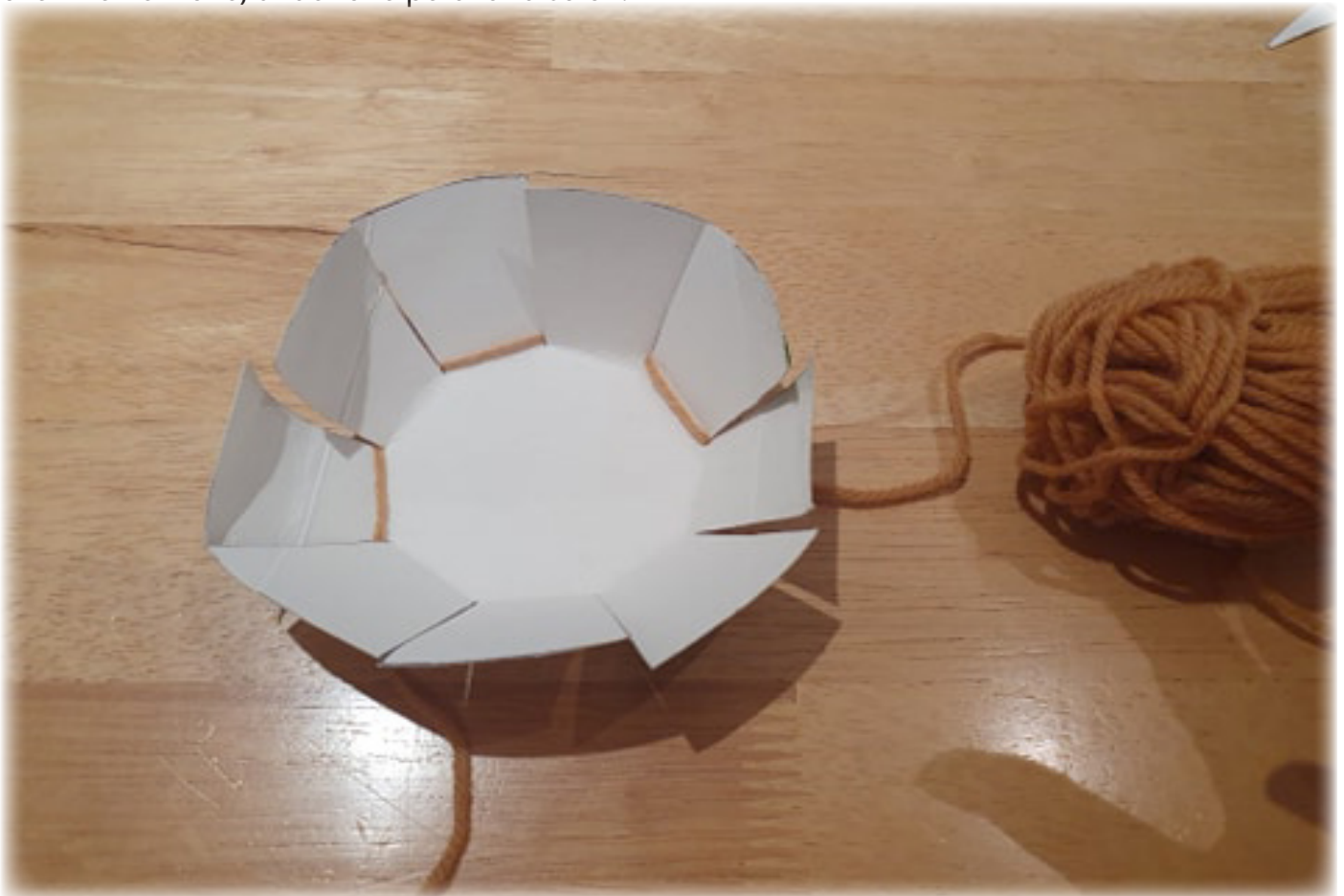
4. Bend the flower petals upwards. They won't stay this way, but it is a good place to start.

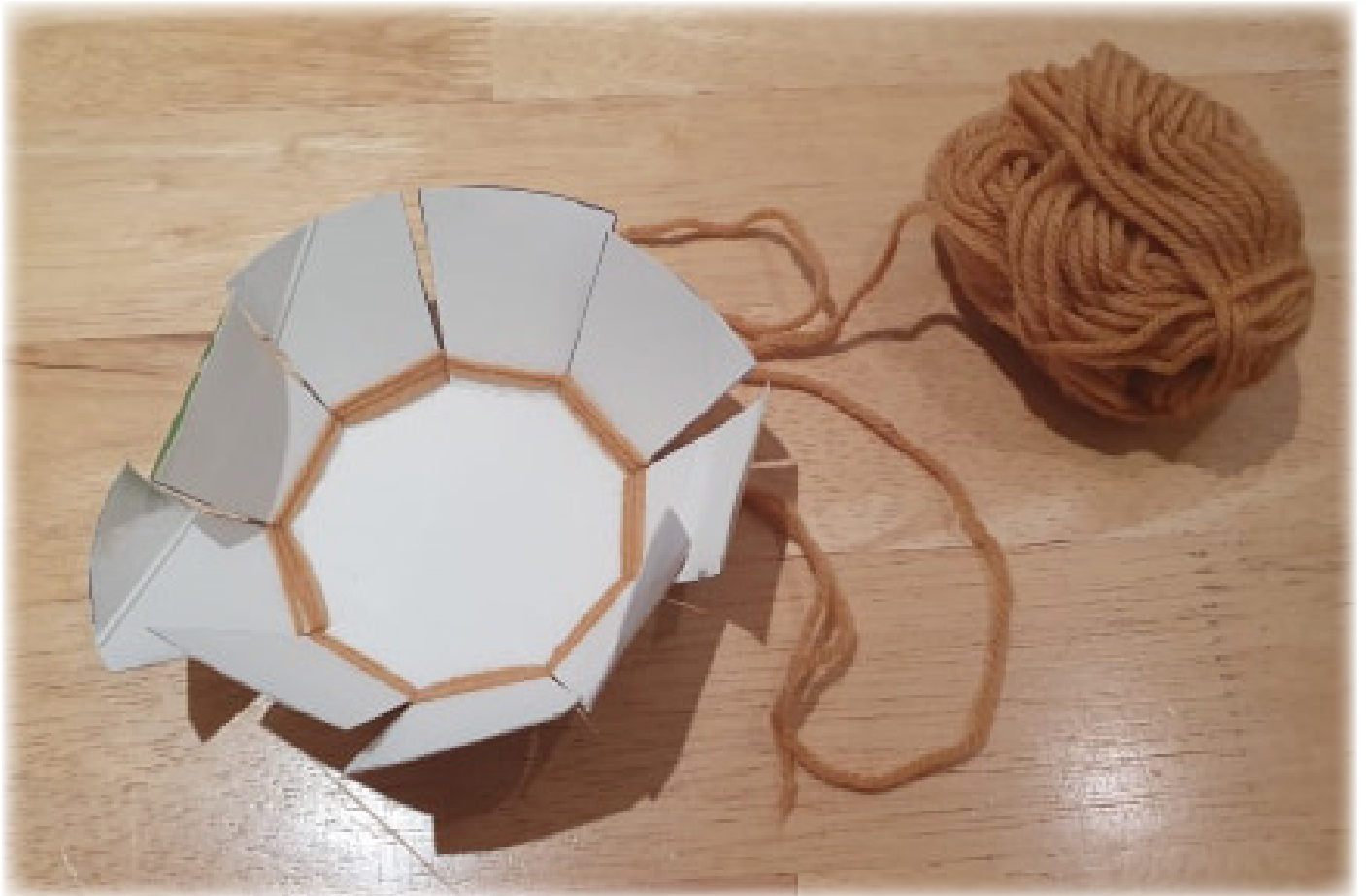


5. To start weaving your basket, find the end of your yarn and slide it into one of the slits. Push it down towards the base of the basket and leave the tail hanging out.



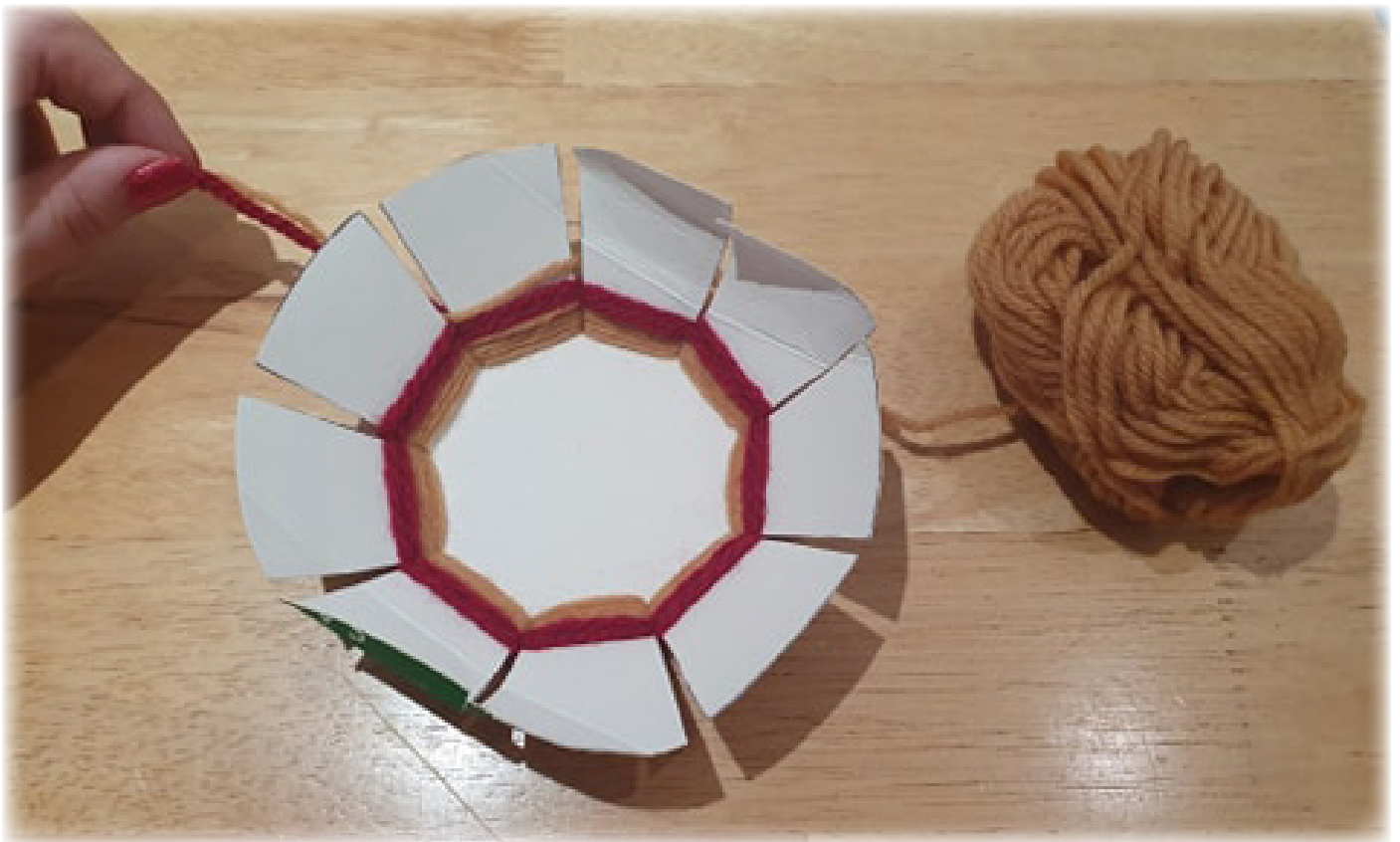
6. Work the yarn around your the petals of your base. Make sure the yarn goes under one petal, over the next one, under one petal and so on.



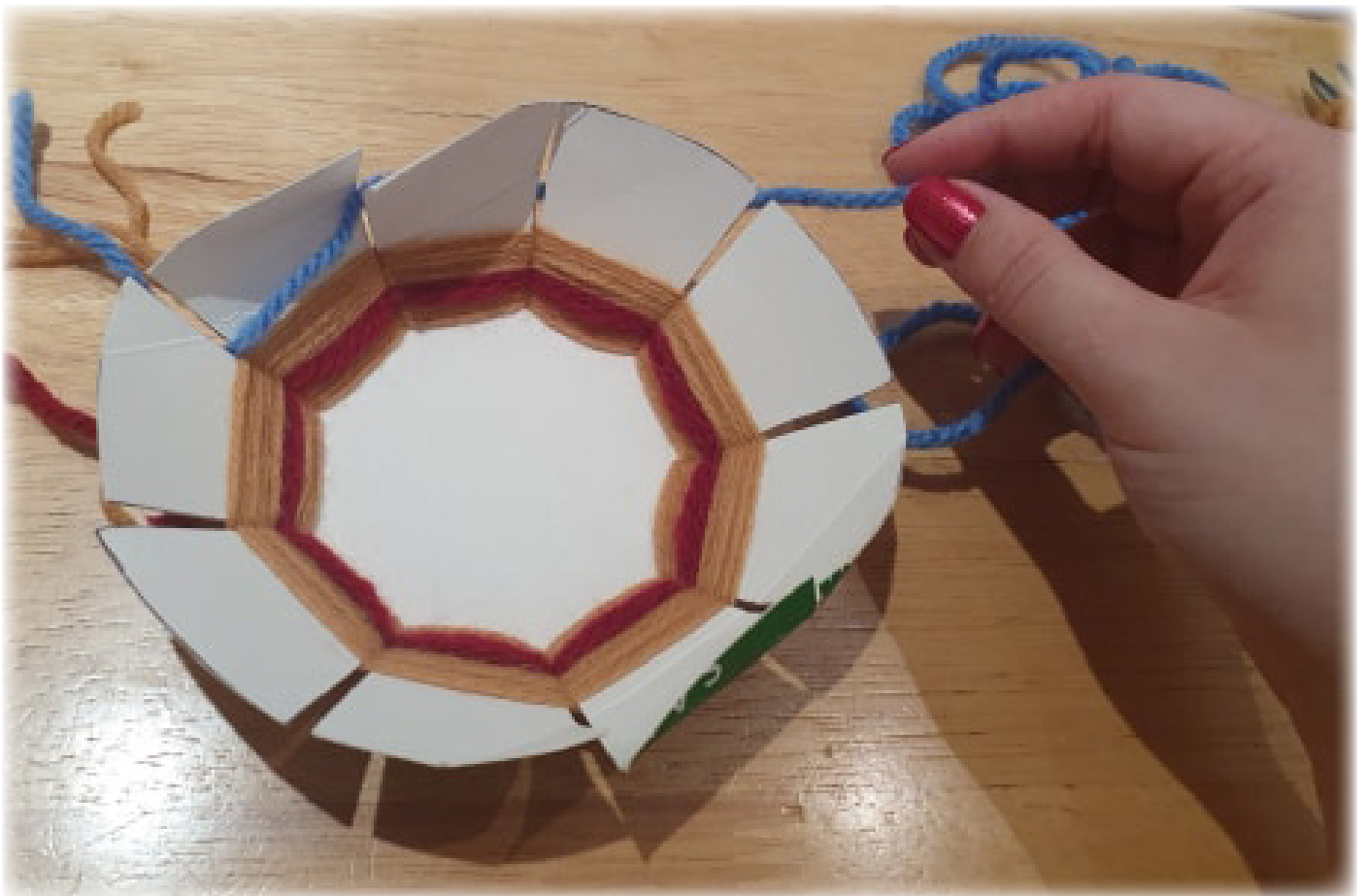


7. If you want to use yarn of multiple colours, snip the yarn and let the tail hang. Tuck in the second colour and continue weaving. Make sure to maintain the same pattern, going over and under the petals.





8. As you weave, push down the yarn close to the base, in order to pack it and give it a neat look.



10. Stop when you are a few centimeters from the top. Attach the end tail to the paper base using glue, or tuck it in to the rest of the yarn using a pen or pencil.



11. If your bowl has really long yarn tails hanging out you can now cut them off slightly. They are locked in because of your weaving, but you still need to secure them so they don't come loose.

Glue the tails to the rest of the basket or tuck in the ends into the yarn using a pen or pencil, to hide them.



All done!



