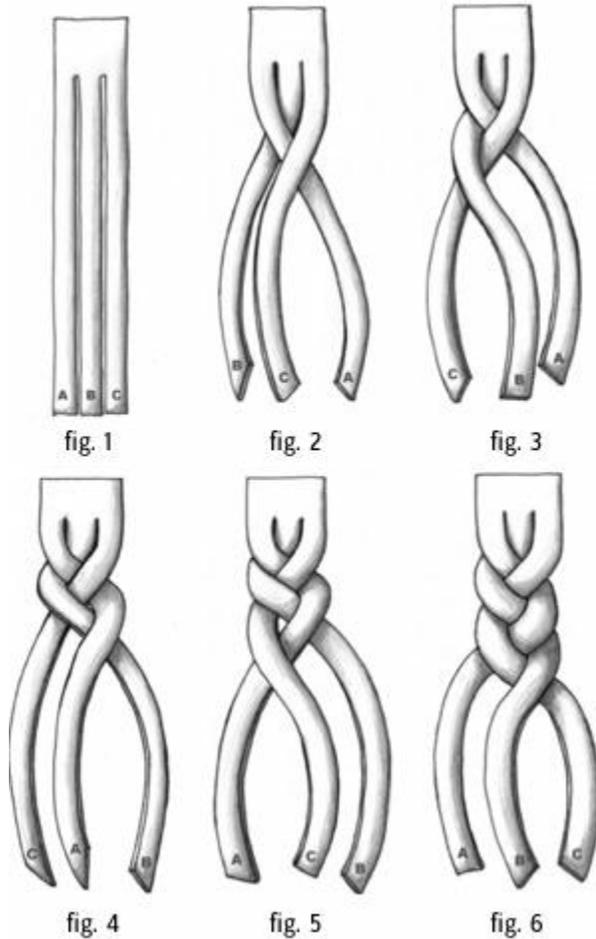


These directions call for rawhide as the braiding material, simply substitute pliable grass for use in this activity.

### THE THREE STRING HAIR BRAID

If you have ever braided someone's hair, you might recognize the Hair Braid shown in the illustration below.



Justin McInteer, Autry National Center.

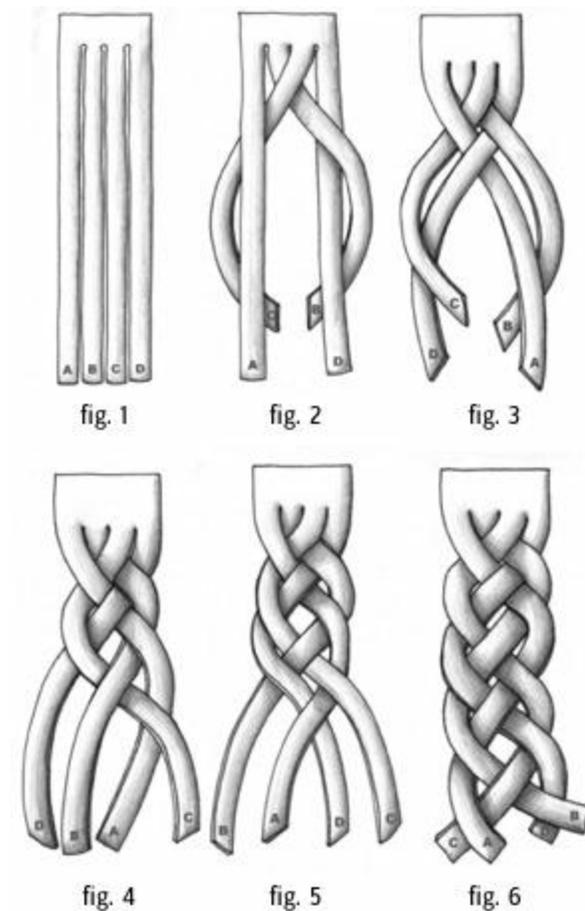
- Start with a strip of leather that has been cut into three strings. (Fig. 1)
- Begin by pulling string **A** over string **B**.
- Next pull string **C** over string **A**. (Fig. 2)
- Then pull string **B** over string **C**. (Fig. 3)

Can you see the pattern? The outside string always crosses over the middle string.

**Drawings and directions by Justin McInteer, Education Coordinator,  
Autry National Center**

## THE FOUR STRING BRAID

The Four-String Braid is similar to the Hair Braid except for the addition of an extra string. You can use this braid to make beautiful bracelets and belts. Remember, labeling your strings with letters will help you through the braiding process.



Justin McInteer, Autry National Center.

- Begin by pulling string **C** over string **B** and under string **A**.
- Next pull string **B** over string **D**.
- Then pull string **D** over string **A** as shown in Fig. 2.
- Pull string **B** under string **A**.
- Now pull string **C** over string **D** and under string **B**.
- Then pull string **A** under string **C** as shown in Fig. 4.
- Next pull string **D** over string **B** and under string **A** as shown in Fig. 5.
- Now pull string **C** under string **D**.
- Next pull string **B** over string **A** and under string **C**.
- Pull string **D** under string **B**.
- Now pull string **A** over string **C** and under string **D**.
- Next pull string **B** under string **A**.
- Now pull string **C** over string **D** and under string **B**.

Can you see the pattern? The string on the right is pulled under the string closest to it. Then the string on the far left is pulled over one string and under one string, stopping in the middle.

**Drawings and directions by Justin McInteer, Education Coordinator,  
Autry National Center**