Designing Pomo Baskets

The Pomo people of Northern California are well-known for creating intricate basketry that is admired around the world. Talented artists create patterns by weaving together plant material. You can see how the material is woven together in a coil shape in the photo to the right. The patterns repeat around all sides of the basket.

Feathered baskets, like the one to the left, are used for ceremonies and special occasions. They are often called ‘sun baskets’ for their bright colors and round shape.

The feathers come from birds native to the area, like mallard duck (green), meadowlark (yellow), oriole (orange), bluebird and blue jay (blue), and quail (brown).
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**STEP 1** - Can you finish the pattern on this Pomo Basket, below?

*Take a look at more Pomo Baskets in our [Online Collections](#). Check out this basket that is smaller than a penny!*
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**STEP 2** - Design a ‘sun basket’ using colors like green, yellow, orange, blue, and brown to represent feathers used by Pomo artists. Use shapes that represent something special to you, like a feeling or a special place.

I used feathers from (circle all that apply):

- Mallard ducks
- Meadowlarks
- Oriole
- Bluebird and Blue Jay
- Quail