

National Core Arts Standards

Visual Art

Anchor Standard 10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

3.VA:Cn10.1.3a

Develop a work of art based on observations of surroundings.

4.VA:Cn10.1.4a

Create works of art that reflect community cultural traditions (In this case, the art reflects what is happening in nature in the community AND a cultural tradition.)

Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

5.VA:Cr2.1.5a

Experiment and develop skills in multiple art-making techniques and approaches through practice.

Additional skills practiced:

- Observation
- Reflection
- Relating abstract concepts to life experiences

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ARTESTEEMSM ACTIVITY GUIDE

Leaf Wreath



AHC Principle: *We can let go of the past and of the future.*

Grades: 3rd–5th

Overview

As we observe leaves on the trees during this time of year, we notice their many shapes and sizes. We see that they are different colors from what they were in the summer, which is now in the **past** (it has already happened). We also know that they will change colors again, which will be in the **future** (at a later time). But let's just focus on the **now** (the present moment)! Why are the leaves changing colors now, as we move into fall? Due to the changes in the length of daylight and the changes in temperature, the leaves stop making **chlorophyll**, which is the green color in a plant that helps it make its food. When the green color fades, the yellow, red and orange colors in the leaves can be seen! People often use these leaves to make **wreaths** (flowers, leaves, or stems connected in a ring and used for decoration). **Our goal for today is to be in the now, as we observe and collect the changing, fall leaves and then create our own wreaths, using different shapes and colors.**

Vocabulary

Past, Future, Now, Chlorophyll, Wreaths, Outline, Overlapping

Materials and Supplies

Construction Paper, Scissors, Glue, Cardboard or Paper Plate, Leaves

Step by Step Instructions

- 1.** Collect fall leaves with various shapes. Set the leaves aside and choose the different colors of construction paper you want to use for your wreath.
- 2.** Trace around each leaf, onto the different colors of construction paper you chose. This will create leaf **outlines** on the paper. Create about 17–25 outlines. This is where you can get creative about how many leaves of each shape, size and color you want to make. Cut out all of your leaf outlines and put them to the side.
- 3.** Cut the paper plate or cardboard into a ring shape. If you'd like, you can paint the ring to match one of the colors of your leaves, before you start applying the leaves.
- 4.** Attach the string to the plate, by tying it around the top and making a knot at the top of the plate. Then tie the two ends together at the top of the string. Be sure your knots are tight for a firm grip. This string will allow you to hang the wreath later. You may also use glue if needed.
- 5.** Once your ring is dry, choose your leaf shapes and start gluing them onto your ring, **overlapping** (putting a part of one on top of a part of another) the leaves as you go. Glue smaller leaves in between larger ones and different shapes next to each other, for interest.

- 6.** Continue gluing the leaves until you have covered the entire front of the ring. After your wreath dries, you will be able to hang it!

Clean Up

While your wreath dries, clean up your area. Keep your paper scraps.

Reflection

Using today's Attitudinal Healing Principle, think about how focusing on the now during this activity, may have helped you stay on task. Feel free to write and/or discuss your thoughts. Here are some questions you can ask yourself:

- When I was observing and choosing the leaves, what were some thoughts that came to my mind?
- Was there any part of this activity where I lost my focus of the now and thought about the past or the future of this project? If so, when was it and what was I focusing on, instead of the now?
- What are times in life when it is easy for me to focus only on the moment, or the now? What times may it be difficult for me to do that?

Go Further

- Try making leaf prints on paper, with paint or paper towels and a hammer. Look up "leaf prints" online for more inspiration and instructions.
- Consider adding glitter to your wreath to give it some sparkle.
- Make a photo wreath of yourself, friends and/or family members.

