

Nasco ARTWORKS

Crayola LEARNING TREES INTEGRATING ART & SCIENCE

NASCO and Crayola® team up to help students create three-dimensional trees and build their understanding of plant life and woodland ecosystems.



MATERIALS:



- NASCO Leaf Stamp Set (#9714351 set of 6)
- Crayola® Washable Paint or Crayola® Tempera Paint
- Paintbrushes
- Cups for water
- Staples, glue, or tape
- Scissors
- Rolls of mural paper, white and brown

PROCESS:



1. Have students read about and discuss plant life according to their developmental level. Encourage students to focus specifically on trees, noting their structural elements and each part's role in the tree's survival. Older students can explore various tree species and how to identify each according to leaf shape. Discuss the role of trees in a woodland ecosystem and the interaction between plants and animals in forests.



2. Divide the class into teams. Team members will work together to determine what setting and season to create and apply their knowledge to making a woodland setting. Specific areas for teams to explore include: seasonal changes in trees, tree's structural elements, role of leaves/trunks/root/branches, identification of specific tree species by leaf shape, and the interaction of plants and animals.



3. Using brown mural paper, cut and shape tree trunks. Secure with staples (or glue or tape) and decorate with washable or tempera paint.

4. Next, cut white mural paper to the desired size for treetop. Paint limbs and branches onto paper.

5. Apply paint sparingly with brush to the surface of the leaf stamps (too much paint will cause detail to be lost in your print). Press leaf stamps firmly to paper and lift off. Repeat until tree top is complete. Various colors can be used for added interest. (Stamps should be cleaned with soap and water between colors).

6. After paint is dry, use crumbled paper to "stuff" the tree base and any animals. Secure with staples (or glue or tape). Display woodland settings with labels that explain the students' work.



EASILY ADAPTABLE TO VARIOUS AGE LEVELS

- Younger students can explore basic plant parts and create "hybrid" trees
- Primary students can study tree species and create specific species, identifiable by their leaf shapes and bark patterns
- Older students can create cross-sectional views within their 3-D models, showing the internal structure of plant parts

Classroom Time: Two 40-minute sessions

Resources: Florian, Doug. *Discovering Trees*. Macmillan: 1986.

For more information on trees check out our **NASCO Science Catalog!**

A Guide to Field Identification of Trees of North America. (SA01429MS) Knobel, Edward. *Identify Trees and Shrubs by their Leaves.* (SB10674MS)

