Leathercraft Projects To-Go

Camp Adventure

Leather LINK BELT
(or Hatband, Wristband, Ankle-Band)

Plus A Look Back Into The
History of “Camping Worldwide”

OBJECTIVE: Students will learn about the theme while creating a useful and decorative leather project. Lesson includes history and new vocabulary words. Creativity, math and dexterity skills will be exercised to design, personalize, color and then assemble the project.

MATERIALS LIST
All Supplies Needed To Complete
12 Leather Link Belt Projects:
• Pre-Cut Veg-Split Suede Leather Belt Parts
• Metal Rings
• Cova Color® Acrylic Paints
• Brushes
• Sharpie Markers
• Stencils
• Design & Coloring Ideas
• Complete Instructions

YOU WILL or MIGHT NEED:
• Pencils For Planning Designs
• Additional Classroom Acrylic Paints & Brushes
• Plastic Palettes, Plates Or Wax Paper For Paints

CLASSROOM TIME:
Minimum of 3 Sessions:
Sizing & Design = 45 minutes
Color the Projects = 45 minutes
Assemble the Projects = 45 minutes

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GETTING STARTED:

SESSION 1 - Sizing & Design:
- Size the belt first. Have a sample for belt and wrist/ankle bands pre-assembled so students can determine how many links they will need to decorate.
- Copy blank templates on page 5, cut apart on dotted lines and hand out along with pencils for planning designs.
- Cut stencils apart on dotted lines and hand out for planning designs.

SESSION 2 - Color:
- Hand out leather parts to each student.
- Share Sharpie Markers, paints & brushes. Use plastic palettes, plates or wax paper for mixing paints.

(SEE PAGE 3 FOR SESSION 3)

MIXING COVA COLOR® ACRYLIC PAINTS
The primary colors (red, yellow & blue) have been supplied in this Theme Bucket. The secondary colors (orange, green & purple) can be created as shown:

- Red + Yellow = Orange
  - Add more or less red or yellow to change the hue of the orange.

- Yellow + Blue = Green
  - Add more or less blue or yellow to change the hue of the green.

- Blue + Red = Purple
  - Add more or less blue or red to change the hue of the purple.

- White + Any Color = Lighter Color
  - Add white to any color to make it lighter. Example shown = blue.

- Black + Any Color = Darker Color
  - Add black to any color to make it darker. Example shown = red.

Now try mixing the secondary colors together to get even more colors.

How Did “Camping” Start?

Historically, camping takes us back to a time before there were towns and cities, when our ancestors wandered over the land existing by hunting and gathering. They lived in settlements called camps. In the 1800’s, camping took on a different meaning.

It is said that Camping is an American tradition, starting back in the early 1800’s. Camping Handbooks were written and the idea of setting up recreational camps was born. Camps were to be places where children could prepare to be productive, healthy adults while having fun playing games and enjoying outdoor sports.

In 1861 one of the first camps was formed: The Gunnery Camp in Connecticut. Soon after, the first YWCA Camp (or summer boarding & vacation house) for women was started in Asbury Park, Pennsylvania. In 1885, the first YMCA Camp was founded in Newburgh, New York. In 1900, the first Boy’s Club camp was organized in Salem, Massachusetts. Then the American Camping Association was founded and the Boy Scouts of America held its first camp in 1910 in Lake George, New York.

From then to now, camps can be found everywhere and are sponsored by churches, cities, private organizations and families. Camping has turned into more than just having fun. Many camps focus on teaching values through respect, honesty, caring and sharing.

Did You Know: When the automobile came along, it allowed families to travel farther away from home and go “camping”. Many took tents along and set up camp sites while others stayed in their trailers and “house-cars” or motor homes, now called RVs.

The camping experience was and still is a relaxing, enjoyable way to vacation. Get away from the everyday routines of school and work and go out to enjoy nature.
Tanning - The process using tannins to change a fresh animal hide into leather.

Tannins - Yellowish substance from oak bark and other plants used to tan leather.

Veg-Split - Vegetable-Tanned leather can be split (layered) into two pieces: one with the grain (top hair side) and one with the rough surface on both sides. Veg-split is the rough surfaced layer.

Fauna - The animals of a specified region or time.

Did You Know: Some of the early camping activities of the 1800s are still done today: Hiking, canoeing, swimming, fishing, bird watching, collecting flower & insect specimens, bike riding, sailing, horseback riding, archery, mountain climbing, story telling cooking over a camp fire. Today, additional activities are offered like studying the stars, making movies, photography, exploring caves, swinging on ropes through trees, sports, treasure hunts, explorations and community charity work. Then there are indoor camping activities such as learning to play instruments, creating with crafts, singing, dancing, acting and even cooking lessons.

Camping locations are worldwide offering all climates and terrains: the mountains, ocean, desert, or a local lake, park or even your own backyard. Remember, the camping experience doesn’t have to ever end. When you are an adult, sign up to be a counselor or teacher at a camp. Or, take your friends and family camping.

The project for this lesson is to make a leather link belt decorated with a camping theme.
CREATE DESIGNS USING STENCIL PATTERNS & YOUR OWN IDEAS

Here are some color & design ideas. The leather can be left its natural color with just the designs in color or paint the backgrounds and designs different colors.

COLORING HINTS:
To paint large areas or many links, mix a Cova Color “wash” by diluting the color with water. Be sure to mix enough to do the entire project or keep record of the proportions.

To make bright or light colors stand out on a darker background, paint bright or light colors first. Then fill in background around them with a darker color. Or, put a wash over the area, let dry, then come back and paint the designs in white. Let white dry completely (few minutes), then add desired colors on top of the white.

NOTE: After the belt is fastened through the rings, only about one-half of the billet front will be visible, along with the backside of the billet end. Be sure to have students plan their designs accordingly and apply to both sides of billet.


CLASSROOM EXPANSION IDEAS:
~ Study some of the students favorite camping locations.
~ Study how other cultures camped: Native Americans, the Military and the Settlers of the New Frontier.

RECYCLE ME!
“I am your Theme Bucket - be sure to recycle me! I would like to end up in your closet with many of my friends. I could store art supplies, extra leather project parts, or even help you organize your files. Create a new label for me so I can help you find what is stored in me. But until it’s time to recycle, I am happy to bring fun & learning into your classroom by offering you Projects To-Go from Tandy Leather Factory.”
TEMPLATES FOR PLANNING DESIGNS
Copy, cut apart on dotted lines and hand out to students.
SIZING & ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS:

SIZE THE LINK BELT TO FIT YOUR WAIST OR A HAT:

1) Put link belt or band together following the steps below. Notice how the links overlap so if designs are being put on the links, they can be placed so they will show.

2) Add as many links as necessary to fit your waist, wrist or a hat.

3) Then take the belt (band) apart again and color designs on all parts before final assembly.

ASSEMBLING THE LINK BELT:

1) Take one link and squeeze one end and push it through 2 rings.

2) Pull link half way through the rings and fold over aligning the big holes in both ends.

3) Take another link, squeeze one end, and push it through the aligned holes in the first link. Continue to the last link.

4) Squeeze the end of the billet with the large hole and push it through the last links’ aligned hole.

5) Turn the tip of the billet up and push it through its own big hole in its end.

6) Pull billet through the hole.

FASTENING THE BELT:

• Slip billet up through both rings.
• Loop billet over edge of top ring only and slip back under top ring.
• Pull tight.