MATERIALS LIST
All Supplies Needed To Complete 12 Leather Journal Projects:
• Pre-Punched Veg-Split Suede Leather Parts
• Cords & Beads
• Cova Color® Acrylic Paints
• Brushes
• Sharpie Pens
• Stencils
• Design & Color Ideas
• Complete Instructions

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

CLASSROOM TIME:
Minimum of 4 Sessions:
Design = 45 minutes
Color the Projects = 90 minutes
Assembly = 45 minutes

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.
GETTING STARTED:

SESSION 1 - Design:
• Have students plan their designs on paper templates before putting them on the leather.
• Copy the blank template on page 5 and hand out along with pencils for planning the designs. Note: Front, back and insides can be decorated.
• Cut stencils apart on dotted lines and handout for planning designs.

SESSIONS 2 & 3 - 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 4)

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:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Red} + \text{Yellow} &= \text{Orange} \\
\text{Yellow} + \text{Blue} &= \text{Green} \\
\text{Blue} + \text{Red} &= \text{Purple}
\end{align*}
\]

Add more or less red or yellow to change the hue of the orange.
Add more or less blue or yellow to change the hue of the green.
Add more or less blue or red to change the hue of the purple.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{White} + \text{Any color} &= \text{Lighter color} \\
\text{Black} + \text{Any color} &= \text{Darker color}
\end{align*}
\]

Add white to any color to make it lighter. Example shown = blue.
Add black to any color to make it darker. Example shown = red.

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

HISTORY:
“Keeping Journals”

During the 1800s, when much of the American West was being settled by 49ers, homesteaders, cowboys, and criminals, the journal had risen to popularity on par with letter-writing. It was a fashion taken up by both men and women, each keeping diaries of their day-to-day life that allow us a peek into the hardships and excitements of life on the frontier.

Between 1866 and 1867, William Henry Jackson traveled into the territories of the American West to survey for the government. He kept a journal, an excerpt of which follows:

Thursday 23rd of 1869

“As we had all the riding we wanted for one day and were still a little sore and stiff we arranged to go on a bear hunt during the day. Indian Bill, Parks and Lingo had rifles and I a shotgun and pistol. From Camp, a bear’s den was pointed out and Chapman said he had seen a bear running over the rocks in the vicinity, so the sport of the day was to find that bear. We first examined the so called bear den but found no signs of recent occupancy. We then went on up the canyon and found it pretty rough going. Climbed to the top of a long, steep rock slide and amused ourselves by detaching big rocks and sending them bounding down the slide, ricocheting like cannon balls and snapping off the tops of big trees like matches. Bill and I then struck out on a bear trail that he had found but soon lost it. I then circled around back of the bluff until I struck the head of the canyon which I followed down back to camp; Bill coming in a little later and Park and Lingo in about an hour. Spent rest of day fishing.”

Continued . . .
NOTE: When using acrylic paints on leather, be sure the project is completely dry before starting to assemble the project.

GETTING STARTED continued:

SESSION 4 - Assembly:
- Copy the Instructions on page 6 and hand them out to each student along with the cord and beads.
- Practice before class and then demonstrate the steps.

ABOUT THE LEATHER:

The leather used for this project is called veg-split leather cut from cowhide. Both sides are rough or suede. The grain side (smooth top side) of this particular cut of leather has been removed.

Veg-split leather can be decorated with designs by either painting or drawing with markers and pens. This project will be decorated using acrylic paints and colored markers.

VOCABULARY:

Cowhide - The hide (skin) from a mature bovine (cow).

Flesh Side - The rough (suede) underside of leather.

Grain Side - The hair side of the leather with the hair removed. This side may be tooled.

Running Stitch - A very historic lacing technique where the lace is stitched in and out of a row of holes.

Tanning - The process using tannins (yellowish substance form oak bark) to change a fresh animal hide into 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.

Whip Stitch - A very historic lacing technique where the lace is taken over the edge of the leather and then into the next hole.

History Continued:

I Did Not Know That:
History has proven that diaries and journals are some of the most important historical documents that historians have to rely upon. They provide a firsthand account of the events of the past, the culture of the past, and the day-to-day life of people of the past that modern people might not have access to in any other way. Without their journals, we most likely would know less about George Washington, John Quincy Adams, Dorothy Wordsworth, Lewis Carroll, Theodore Roosevelt, Virginia Woolf, Anne Frank, Malcolm X, Carl Jung, Harry S. Truman and many more.

The journals and diaries used by these early Americans were mostly leather bound for durability and long life. Cowhide, both with and without hair, was the most commonly used leather for the covers of journals and books. They were assembled using cotton, sinew, latigo or rawhide lace.

The project for this lesson is to make a leather journal and personalize it using New Frontier designs. The journal will then be stitched using authentic techniques of the times - Running Stitch & Whip Stitch.
CREATE DESIGNS USING STENCIL PATTERNS & YOUR OWN IDEAS

Here are some color & design ideas shown on the project part before assembly. 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, mix a Cova Color “wash” by diluting the color with water. Be sure to mix enough to do the entire project or keep a record of the proportions for mixing more.

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:
Be sure to plan designs on paper before drawing or applying color on the leather.

All 4 sides can be decorated with paint and or markers.

A Journal can also be called a Diary, a Planner or a Log Book.

CLASSROOM EXPANSION IDEAS:
~ Study some of the famous Journals in history.
~ Make a journal and record daily notes and special events and activities in it.
~ Explore different uses for a Journal or Diary today. Examples: How does the Journal of the past relate to today’s “Day Planner”.

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.”
ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS:

**USING THE RUNNING STITCH:**
1) Position the two journal pieces (insides) together, aligning holes.

2) Begin at the top hole on the front side of the journal. Leave at least 6 “ of cord at the hole and stitch through top aligned holes to the back side.

3) Stitch down and out through the next aligned holes. Continue in & out to last hole.

4) At last hole, stitch over edge and up through bottom hole in back part only and take cord up between parts to top hole. Stitch out through top hole in front part only. Pull inside cord tight.

5) Slide 3 beads on both cords together. Push up to hole to secure. Trim off excess cord. Tie knots in ends.

**USING THE WHIP STITCH:**
1) Position the two journal pieces (insides) together, aligning holes.

2) Begin at the top hole on the front side of the journal. Leave 6 “ of cord at the hole and stitch through top aligned holes to the back side.

3) Stitch over edge and down through the next aligned holes. Continue to last hole.

4) At last hole, from the back, stitch over edge & through bottom hole of front part only and take cord up between parts to top hole. Stitch out through top hole in front part only.

5) Slide 3 beads on both cords together. Push up to hole to secure. Trim off excess cord. Tie knots in ends.

**TO PLACE PAPER:** Pull beads away from top hole to loosen cord loop on inside of journal. Insert folded 8-1/2” x 11” paper through loop, then tighten beads back up to top hole.

**HINTS:** When stitching, keep the cord flat - do not twist it. To keep cut cord ends from unraveling, put a drop of classroom white glue on cut ends and let them dry completely.