



Beauty and the Natural World: Plant Shapes in Art

For Grades K-2

In this resource, we will look closely at the features of a plant and then use those plant features in an artwork. This activity will help answer the question: How can the natural world inspire creativity?

Supplies: Handouts (provided), pen or pencil, art supplies, scissors, glue

What to do:

1. Look at this art piece: [Snake Amongst Flowers](#).
Where do you see flowers and leaves in this work? What do you notice about the flowers and leaves?
2. Select a plant. This can be done by walking in your neighborhood or choosing a houseplant in your home.
3. Look closely at the plant and fill in [Handout A](#).
4. To notice new things about your plant, consider:
 - dissecting the plant parts (make sure this is allowed and safe first!)
 - using a magnifying glass or microscope to study small details
 - using a flashlight to backlight the leaves and petals- this is a great way to see new details!
5. Optional: Use [iNaturalist](#) (or a similar app) to identify the plant



Show and Share:

1. Using your collage materials, cut out the shapes you observed in your plant (you can also draw and color the shapes and use those instead of construction paper).
2. Use these shapes to create an artwork inspired by nature.
3. Write your Artist's Statement using [Handout B](#).

Extend your Learning

1. Take a neighborhood walk and look for plants with similar features - do you think any of these plants are closely related? Why?
2. Haiku are Japanese poems about nature. [Craft a haiku inspired by the plant you chose.](#)
3. Re-create your artwork using a different medium. How does this change your work?
4. Take a neighborhood walk and look for shapes in nature.





Share and celebrate your work by emailing Teachers@huntington.org

This resource has some alignment with:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.7 Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

NCAS Anchor Standard 1-3 Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work, organize and develop artistic ideas and work, refine and complete artistic work.

NGSS K Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: Animals, Plants, and Their Environment.

NGSS 2 Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems.





Art Project in Photos:

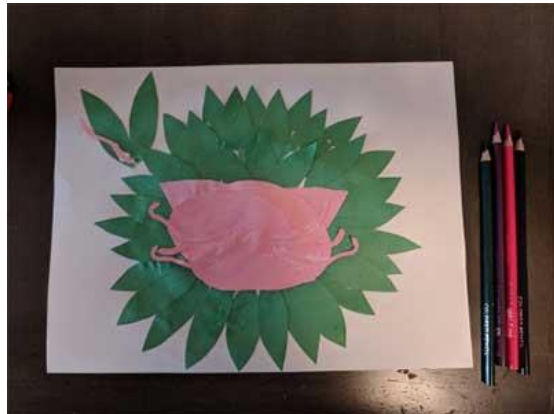
1. First, I cut out the shapes I saw in my plant.



2. Now, my shapes are all cut out- I am ready!



3. I place the shapes where I want them, and I glue them in place. I can make anything I want!



4. I made a lion and a flying bug! What will you make?





Handout A: Plant Observation Sheet

Fill in the chart below with your observations of your plant. Note: Try to choose a plant with flowers!

Plant Part	Describe it! (circle the words that describe your plant)	Sketch it! (draw what you see)
<p>LEAVES</p>	<p>My plant's leaves are....</p> <p>BIG SMALL LONG SHORT</p> <p>WIDE NARROW STRAIGHT BENDY</p> <p>BUMPY SMOOTH SHARP</p> <p>ONE COLOR MANY COLORS</p>	
<p>FLOWERS (What do the petals look like?)</p>	<p>My plant's flowers are....</p> <p>BIG SMALL WIDE NARROW</p> <p>SMOOTH BUMPY LONG SHORT</p> <p>ONE COLOR MANY COLORS</p>	





Handout B: Artist's Statement

Artist's Name: _____ Title: _____

I made a.....

Drawing

Painting

Collage

Sculpture

I used these materials to make my artwork...

Crayons

Markers

Paint

Paper

Clay

Scissors

Tape

Glue

Pencil

Pen

I hope people notice this about my artwork...

