

# Family Activities

## Hapa Zome Plant Art

### SUPPLIES

#### **Materials supplied**

Watercolor paper  
1 Cotton Apron  
1 Wooden Hammer

#### **Materials needed**

Board/cutting board/surface for hammering on

A collection of brightly colored, fresh leaves and flowers. The fresher and brighter the better.

### TRY

1. Search the outdoors for pretty flowers, leaves, or even small wild berries. The best plant materials are those that still have moisture, so not dried flowers or autumn leaves.



2. Find a firm, flat surface to place the items onto to be able to withstand the hammering – a wooden slice, chopping board, or a flat stone is an ideal surface. Do not put hammer marks in your table!
3. Place your paper or fabric on your flat surface. Organize your leaf and flower collection into a pattern or design on the paper or fabric. I recommend placing any flowers face down on the surface you want the color/image to transfer onto.
4. Fold over the paper/fabric or place another piece of paper/fabric over the top of your greenery and start to hammer! For younger kids have a safety talk before issuing the hammer, reminding them to be spatially aware, keeping their own fingers and their friends around them safe.
5. Continue to gently hammer the flowers until you see the paper or fabric on top is tinted with the color from the greenery.
6. Lift the top layer of paper/fabric and gently remove the crushed greenery from the paper/fabric and appreciate your results!

## EXPLORE

Which colors, shapes and flora transferred best? Does the print look like you imagined?

Hapa Zome means “leaf dye”. It is a Japanese printmaking technique which uses natural colors from flowers and plants. Crushing the flowers and plants releases the natural colors onto your fabric or paper, creating, at times, a detailed image. Check out a book from your local library and learn more about the plants and flowers you are squishing with your hammering!



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