

Paper Wreath Activity

In ancient Greece, wreaths were given to the victors of Olympic and dramatic competitions to wear as crowns. Dramatic competitions were festivals where actors and poets competed to present the best play or poem. The winners received ivy crowns as a prize. These wreaths came from the gods who were the patrons of these events. Dionysus, the god of theater, is shown wearing an ivy crown. Apollo, the god of prophecy and oracles, music, song, poetry, healing, education, and archery, is often depicted wearing a laurel crown or holding a laurel branch.

Since the time of the first Olympics in Greece, the laurel crown and laurel leaves have been symbols of victory, success, and fame. In fact, the laurel wreath is often depicted on modern Olympic medals.



Artist's rendition of original paint on Dionysus (Bacchus) head KM 1974.4.1.

In this activity, make your own paper wreath crown!

Supplies:

- Paper (printer paper, cardstock, or construction paper) Note: Can substitute paper with felt
- Scissors
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Glue or tape

Instructions:

1. Print out leaves on desired paper or draw 12–16 leaves.
2. If using white paper, color the leaves.
3. Cut out leaves.
4. Cut two 2-inch-wide strips down the length of a sheet of paper. Color band.
5. Attach the strips together, creating one long 2-inch-wide band.
6. Wrap the paper band around the head of the crown wearer to measure for size.
7. Trim excess paper and attach the two ends of the band together with tape, creating a closed ring.
8. Using adhesive, attach the leaves to the paper ring in your desired pattern.
9. When the adhesive is dry, the crown is ready for your Olympic victor!

*Note: An unused headband is a great substitute for the paper band. Attach the leaves to the headband and use that as your crown!



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