



Hampstead Stage Company
Robin Hood -Educational Materials
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Sherwood Forest Craft & Community Service

Summary:

- This interactive workshop guides students in creating artwork inspired by *Robin Hood's* Sherwood Forest. Two options are included, one that incorporates students going outside to find natural materials to use in their artwork and another can be done in any classroom setting. Keeping with the spirit of *Robin Hood*, which emphasizes being of service to those who are in need, several ideas are included for how to use this activity as part of a larger community service project.

Grades: K-2

Time: 30-45 minutes, those taking students outside should plan for an additional 30 minutes

Materials:

Activity Option 1: Leaf Printing (Requires students to go outside):

- Fallen leaves (2-3 per student, students may share if needed)*
- Plastic or paper bags or pillow cases for carrying leaves (if desired)
- Paper plates or artist palettes
- Non-toxic paints in a variety of colors
- Paint brushes (ideally one per student)
- Construction paper or plain white paper as available (one sheet per student)
- Pencils, colored pencils, crayons, and/or markers for writing
- If desired, smocks or old tee shirts to cover clothing while using paint

***Note** -if this activity seems more suitable to your students and it is not possible for them to go outside to find their own leaves, you may also bring in leaves for students to use or ask for the help of parent volunteers or students in bringing in leaves to use.

Activity Option 2: Fingerprint Tree (Can be done completely in the classroom):

- Construction paper or plain white paper as available (one sheet per student)
- Pencils for tracing handprints
- Brown paint or brown markers (to color base of tree)
- Colorful paint or markers (for leaves)
- If using paint, paper plates or artist palettes



Introduction and Warm-Up (5-7 minutes):

(Note -this workshop outline assumes students have seen Hampstead Stage Company's production of Robin Hood, though it may be used as a preshow or standalone activity, simply adjust the following introduction as needed to share with students that they will be seeing a performance that involves Sherwood Forest or fill them on the general story of Robin Hood.)

- Gather students in a circle or preferred seating.
 - *We recently saw Hampstead Stage Company's production of Robin Hood.*
 - **What did Robin Hood do?**
→ He stood up to King John to help the poor/He robbed from the rich to give to the poor.
 - **Where did Robin Hood live with his Merry Men?**
→ They lived in Sherwood Forest.
- Definition: Forest** → A large area covered primarily with trees and undergrowth. Sherwood Forest is a forest in England. Its trees allowed Robin Hood and his men to hide from King John's men. (If classroom has access to computers or a smart board, you may wish to share images of Sherwood Forest with students. One resource is: <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/country-parks/sherwood-forest>)
- *Today, we are going to make our own artwork inspired by the trees in Sherwood Forest.*
 - If you choose to use this project as part of a community service project, you may also choose to let the students know that, just like Robin Hood, you will be working to improve the lives of others by giving these cards to those who need encouragement and support.

Activity Option 1: Leaf Printing (Requires students to go outside or bring in leaves):

Finding Leaves (30 minutes):

- If bringing students outside, you will want to bring them to a park or local forest with many trees and fallen leaves. Depending on your location, the school playground may even be an option! Students may wish to pretend they are just like Robin and his Merry Men as they walk through the area. Have students imagine what Robin Hood's men must have felt like, hiding out in the forest, among the trees.
- Each student will need to find 2-3 leaves of different shapes to use for their craft, however, students may collect as many leaves as they can carry. Depending on the age and needs of the students, students may be asked to bring in a plastic or paper bag, or even a pillow case to carry their leaves and keep them organized.



Creating Leaf Prints (30 minutes):

- If students are creating artwork, they may use a standard 8.5x11 paper or construction paper. If they are creating a card, paper should be folded in half prior to doing the leaf print.
- To create a leaf print, students (with the help of teacher and teacher assistants as necessary), will place small amounts of the paint colors they would like to use on a paper plate (or palette if available). Using a paint brush, students will paint the colors on one side of their leaf (the side that has vein/stem), feeling free to use more than one color on their leaf as desired.
- Once one side of the leaf is covered with paint, students will then take the leaf and use it to “stamp” their paper or card.
- This process may be repeated with the same leaf or different leaves until the paper/card is full of stamps.
- Allow prints to dry fully before having students sign their names or write messages (if making cards, see optional activity below)

Activity Option 2: Fingerprint Tree (Can be done completely in the classroom):

Students trace their hands (15 minutes):

- If students are creating artwork, they may use a standard 8.5x11 paper or construction paper. If they are creating a card, paper should be folded in half prior to tracing their handprint.
- Students should trace one of their hands on the paper. If needed, students can help each other or teacher can help to trace hands as well.
- Once hands have been traced, students should paint or color-in their hand print using brown paint, markers, or crayons. The handprint will be the trunk of the tree.

Students create leaves (15-30 minutes):

- Depending on students’ age and the time and resources available, students may either create the leaves of the tree simply by making various dots of color using markers or the tip of a paint brush.
- If possible, students may dip their fingertips in paint and use their fingerprints to create the leaves of the tree.
- If using paint, allow leaves to dry fully before having students sign their names or write messages (if making cards, see optional activity below).

Optional Community Service Extension (10 minutes):

- In the spirit of Robin Hood, who worked hard to help those less fortunate than him, the above artwork could be used in creating cards for a community service project. Cards could be distributed to residents at a local senior home or sent as cards of gratitude and encouragement to soldiers. If choosing this option, it may be helpful to have a few prewritten phrases available for students such as “Thank you for Your Service” or “Hello from a Friend!” that they can write on the outside of their cards. In both cases, it is always nice for the recipient to hear more



about the person writing the card -what they like to do for fun, what they are studying in school, even about the *Robin Hood* play that they saw -as this can be helpful in lifting spirits.

- Information for local senior homes will vary, but usually an activities director is available to answer questions. One resource that collects letters nationally is: <http://www.lovefortheelderly.org/letters-of-love.html>. For more information about sending cards to soldiers, <http://www.amillionthanks.org>, is a great resource for getting started. Some local chapters of the Red Cross may also have more information.

Reflection (5 minutes):

- Have students line up their trees all together and admire the forest they have created!
- What do you think it was like for Robin and his Merry Men to live in the forest?
- Robin went out of his way to help those in need, what can we do every day to help those who need it?
- (For those making cards for community service) How do you think your card will help make a difference to the person who receives it?

Further Resources

- Some examples of leaf printing can be found here:
http://www.firstpalette.com/Craft_themes/Nature/Leaf_Prints/Leaf_Prints.html
<http://kleas.typepad.com/kleas/2010/10/leaf-printing.html>
- "Finger Print Tree" was modified from the craft found here:
<http://www.artycraftykids.com/art/autumn-handprint-tree/>