

Collaborative Harvest Quilt

This colorful, easy-to-make quilt is a great way to culminate a harvest unit.

MATERIALS

- ⊙ craft paper
- ⊙ seed catalogs
- ⊙ multicolored paper squares, each about 10 by 10 inches
- ⊙ craft materials including fabric, paper scraps, tissues
- ⊙ objects to make rubbings and textures (sponges, corks, corrugated cardboard, cheese graters, sandpaper, net bags)
- ⊙ watercolor and tempera paints, puffy craft paint, paintbrushes, old toothbrushes, markers, colored pencils, crayons
- ⊙ glue

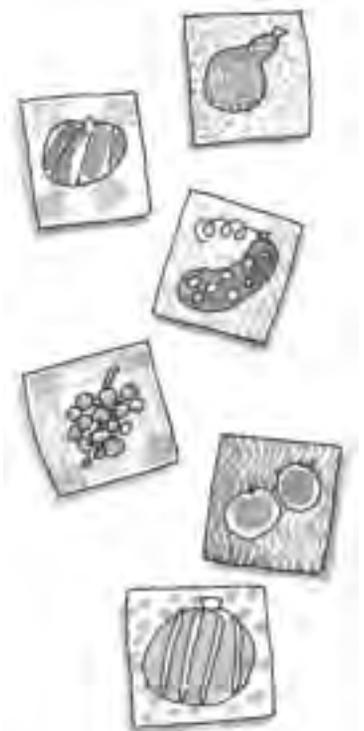
1 Cover a bulletin board or display space with craft paper.

2 Tell children that they are going to create a quilt to celebrate harvest fruits and vegetables. Ask each child to choose a fruit or vegetable to illustrate. Encourage children to choose different varieties within fruit or vegetable families. Have seed catalogs on hand for reference. For example, the squash family includes different kinds of pumpkins (Baby Boo, Big Mix, Atlantic Giant), zucchini and yellow squash, butternut and Hubbard, acorn squash, spaghetti squash, and gourds.

3 Distribute a paper square to each child, along with craft and decorating supplies. Invite children to be inventive in the way they illustrate their fruit or vegetable. Suggestions follow:

To depict the textures of different fruits and vegetables:

- ⊙ Make rubbings using corrugated cardboard, net bags, sandpaper, cheese graters, and so on.
- ⊙ Stamp textures using sponges, corks, or pieces of bark that have been dipped in paint.
- ⊙ Make wavy or zigzag designs by drawing a plastic fork or comb firmly across a painted surface while it is still wet.

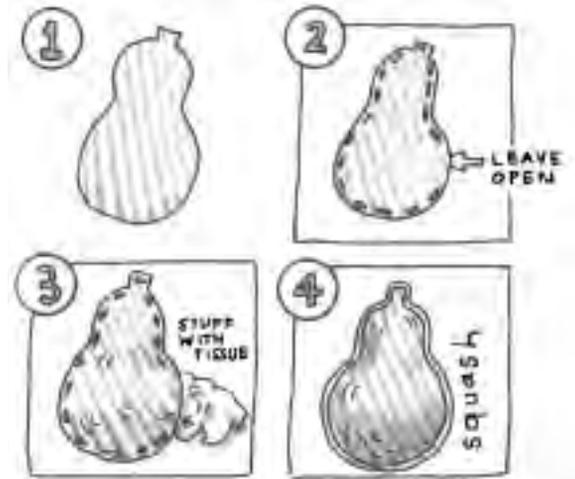




Harvest Year by Cris Peterson (Boyd's Mill Press, 1996). Through fabulous photos and information-packed text, young readers learn about the bounty of crops that are harvested in the United States all year long.

Suggestions for other enhancements:

- ☉ For a three-dimensional effect, place a fruit or vegetable shape cut from fabric or paper on a paper square. Staple partway around the edges, stuff with facial tissues, and staple closed. Outline with yarn dipped in glue. Add raised features with puffy craft paint.
- ☉ To create colorful borders for the squares, glue rickrack, yarn, or colored paper strips around the edges.



- 4 When children have completed their squares, have them label their fruit or vegetable.
- 5 Together, plan the design by arranging the squares on the floor. Then transfer the squares to the craft paper display, gluing them down with about an inch of space between each square.
- 6 With the quilt on display, invite children to describe how they made their fruit or vegetable quilt square.



Literacy Link

Make a Harvest ABC Quilt. Brainstorm the names of a different fruit or vegetable for as many letters of the alphabet as possible. Invite children each to choose a letter and make a quilt square to represent their letter's fruit or vegetable. For letters without a match, simply make a quilt square representing that letter. Some children might like to make two squares, to reach an even count of thirty. (Make doubles for four of the letters.) Then assemble the quilt as described above.

Explore More

Collaborative Fall Leaf Quilt

Invite children to make a quilt that depicts the variety of colors and shapes of autumn leaves.