



# Flower Mallet Stamping

(Suggested Ages: 5+)



## Gather

- White paper
- A rubber mallet, or a hammer in a sock
- Assorted fresh flowers and leaves
- A hard surface - protected table, floor, or pavement
- Optional: red clay soil, water in cup, paintbrush, ballpoint pen

## Let's Create!

1. Gather a variety of flowers and leaves (be sure to carefully snip just the blossoms, and ask permission if they are in someone's yard!)
2. Arrange flowers and leaves on a sheet of white paper.
3. Place another sheet of white paper on top of the flowers.
4. Pound the top sheet of paper with a rubber mallet, hammer, block of wood, or rock. (CAUTION! Do not pound so hard that you damage the table! Unless you have a VERY sturdy table, place a piece of cardboard under the paper, or consider doing this on the floor or outside on a paved surface.)
5. Lift the top paper and brush the crushed plant material off of the sheets of paper.
6. Optional: outline your imprints with a pen and add some red clay mud "paint" for stems or leaves. Leaves can also be colored by smearing a crumpled leaf on the paper.

## How Does it Work?

Pigments are molecules that produce different colors. People have been using the natural pigments in plant materials to dye fabrics for thousands of years. The colors in flowers and leaves contain one or more of four different types of pigments. For more information about what puts the color in your favorite flower or fruit, visit:

<http://www.webexhibits.org/causesofcolor/7H.html>

## Take it Further!

We often associate colors with certain feelings or meanings. Purple has long been considered a "royal" color, but do you know why? Check out the history of this famous color at:

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tyrian\\_purple](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tyrian_purple)