

Activity Idea

Tropical Paper Leis

Recommended for Ages 4 – 8

Flower leis are a rich part of Hawaiian culture. The Polynesian tribes who originated in the Hawaiian Islands used leis as a part of ceremonies and to welcome visitors. Create your own paper lei at home with simple materials.

Materials needed:

- Paper or plastic straws (optional)
- Construction paper or cardstock in two or three different colors
- String
- Hole-punch
- Template (attached below)

Directions:

1. Trace six flowers and draw leaves on colored paper. (For a full-styled lei, feel free to use more flowers)
2. Use multiple straws and cut them into smaller two-inch pieces. If you do not have straws roll small pieces of paper to create small tubes and secure with tape.
3. Punch a hole in center of each flower and leaf.
4. Measure a piece of string to hang around your neck. Cut to your desired length. The lei should fall a little below your chest for best results.
5. Thread your flowers, leaves, and straws using the straws (or paper tubes) as a filler between each item. Use a pattern that you find pleasing. Be sure to knot one side of the string so that each flower, straw, and leaf does not fall through or have someone hold the other end for you.
6. Tie the ends together, wear, and enjoy!
Try a fun read to go along with your paper lei:

High Tide in Hawaii by Mary Pope Osbourne on OverDrive
<https://lacountylibrary.overdrive.com/media/348828>

Ho'onani; Hula Warrior by Heather Gale on OverDrive
<https://lacountylibrary.overdrive.com/media/4660613>



