

## Hapa Zome (Leaf Dye) and Symmetry

### Learning Intentions:

- Devise patterns or designs, using a variety of media.
- Create and recognise symmetrical pictures.
- Explore symmetry in the environment.

### About this activity:

Hapa Zome means “leaf dye” in Japanese. It is a traditional Japanese art form of leaf printing, where the pigments (or colours) within a leaf are transferred onto cloth or paper.

### What you need:

- Strong surface (such as a chopping board or plank of wood)
- Smooth pebble that is easy to hold or a mallet
- Cloth (perhaps an old sheet cut into smaller segments) or some paper
- A variety of tree leaves, ferns, grasses and flowers
- If you would like to make a flag: a long stick and some string.

### What to do:

1. Place the cloth/paper on the strong surface.
2. Fold the cloth/paper in half and note where the halfway mark is.
3. Open out the cloth/paper again and on one half of it, arrange the leaves and flowers in a pattern that you like.
4. Fold the other half back over.
5. With your smooth stone or mallet (and with adult guidance), hammer over the cloth/paper. Make sure you remain mindful of where your hands are, and look after those fingers!
6. You should start to see the dye coming onto the cloth/paper. Keep going – this activity needs strength and persistence! Feel those muscles working.
7. When you think you have hammered enough, open out the cloth/paper and remove the bits of bashed leaves.
8. Now go and wash your hands, while you leave it to dry.
9. Admire your creation. Create a flag from it if you would like. Notice the symmetry between two sides.
10. Can you find anything else symmetrical in nature? How about the wings of insects? Flowers? Leaves? Go and explore and see what you can find.

Keeping safe:

- Make sure an adult supervises during the bashing part of this activity! Keep your hands out of the bashing zone.
- When choosing flowers, stick to daisies and dandelions unless you are with an adult who can help you identify other safe flowers.



Daisy



Dandelion

- Please wash your hands straight after you have created your hapa zome piece.