

High-Five Tree Collage

Trace your hand onto fabric, cut it out, and turn it into a tree trunk. Add some paper leaves to make a lovely collage of a spring tree.



You will need:

- 12" X 16" stretched canvas or canvas board
- Brown fabric for trunk (about 10" X 14")
- Scrapbook paper in various designs and shades of green ranging from dark to light
- White 11" X 17" paper
- Blue acrylic paint
- A few paintbrushes in different widths
- Mod Podge
- Black marker
- Pencil
- Masking tape or painter's tape
- Scissors
- Plastic cup

Print a [picture of a completed tree collage](#) to show your artists. Post a copy on your bulletin board to create interest in the activity.

Directions:

1. Cover the canvas with blue paint using quick horizontal strokes. Horizontal brush strokes may be visible, as shown below. Set aside to dry.
2. Cut a 2" X 3" rectangle off a corner of the 11" X 17" piece of white paper. Fold the small rectangle in half lengthwise and cut out a simple leaf shape as shown below. This will be your leaf pattern.



3. Trace and cut out green leaves from the assortment of scrapbook paper by folding 2"-wide strips, sandwiching the strips between the folded pattern. Cut along the edge of the pattern as shown above. Cut an assortment of shades. You will need 40 to 60 leaves.



4. Using a black marker, trace your forearm and hand with fingers spread wide apart onto the 11" X 17" paper. Cut out your traced hand and arm. Then turn it over and place rolled pieces of tape on each finger, in the center of the hand, and on a couple of places on the arm as shown above.
5. Turn over the hand/arm pattern and stick it to the brown fabric. With the pattern stuck in place, cut the shape out of the fabric. Remove the pattern, leaving the tape on the back.
6. Stick the pattern onto the dried canvas and trace with a pencil as shown above. Be sure to center the hand and arm from left to right and about 2" from the top. Remove the pattern and discard.
7. Make a glue mixture by stirring equal parts water and Mod Podge together in a plastic cup.
8. Attach the leaves and trunk to the canvas by following this collage technique: brush the canvas with glue mixture where you will be attaching paper or fabric. After attaching each element of the tree to the canvas, brush more glue mixture on top, using a paintbrush to smooth out bumps or wrinkles.



9. Using the technique described above, first attach background leaves by arranging dark leaves around the traced hand as shown above. The leaves can overlap the hand a bit.
10. Attach the trunk next, positioning it where the hand and arm was traced.
11. Finish by adding the medium- and light-shaded leaves.
12. Set aside your creation to allow it to dry. Then sign and hang it.

Variation:

Cut everything (trunk and leaves) out of fabric or paper or any combination.



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