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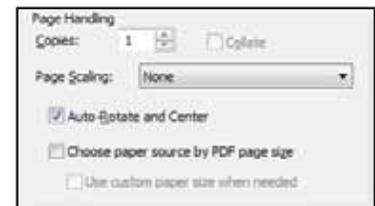
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NOTE: Some patterns may reference tools, and other items no longer available.

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Leathercraft Projects To-Go

Jungle - Rainforest

Leather LINK BELT

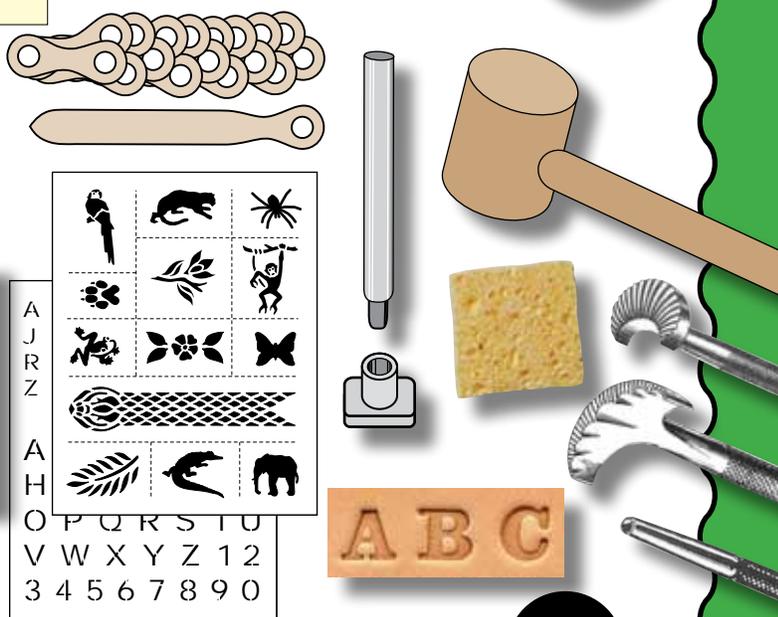
Plus A Look Into The Inner Workings of "Jungles & Rainforests"

OBJECTIVE: Students will learn about the theme while creating a useful and decorative leather project. Lesson includes history and new vocabulary words. Creativity, math and dexterity skills will be exercised to design, personalize, color and assemble the project.

MATERIALS LIST

All Supplies Needed to Complete 12 Leather Link Belt Projects:

- Pre-Cut Veg-Tan Tooling Leather Belt Parts
- Metal Rings
- Stamping Tools & Handles
- Mallets
- Sponges & Sheep Wool
- All-In-One Stain / Finish
- Cova Color® Acrylic Paints
- Brushes
- Sharpie Pens & Stencils
- Instructions & Handbook



YOU WILL or MIGHT NEED:

- Pencils For Planning Designs
- Plastic Water Bowls
- Classroom Markers, Acrylic Paints & Brushes
- Plastic Palettes, Plates Or Wax Paper For Paints

CLASSROOM TIME:

Minimum of 4 Sessions:

Sizing & Design = 45 minutes

Case & Stamp = 45 minutes

Color & Assemble = 90 minutes



GETTING STARTED:

SESSION 1 - Design:

- Copy the blank templates on page 5, cut apart on dotted lines along with stencils and hand out with pencils to plan designs.

SESSION 2 - Case & Stamp:

- To prepare for casing & stamping, set-up sturdy tables for 3 or 4 students per table with one plastic bowl of water & two sponges per table (Note: Sponges can be cut in half).
- Hand out to each student: A copy of page 6 instructions, project parts & one mallet.
- Share stamps and stamp handles.
- Follow the Leather Preparation and Stamping Instructions on the next pages.

SESSIONS 3 & 4 - Color & Assembly:

- Set up 1 or 2 staining tables for All-In-One Stain & Finish to be applied with sheep wool pieces. Cover tables with paper to protect them from spills.
- Add additional color with Sharpie Pens & Cova Colors. Use plastic palettes, plates or wax paper for mixing paints.
- Copy and hand out Instructions (page 7) along with metal rings (2 per belt).
- Practice assembly steps before class. Demonstrate the steps.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

The leather used in this project is called vegetable-tanned (Veg Tan) leather cut from cowhide. One side is smooth (the grain side) and one side is rough or suede (the flesh side). Veg Tan leather can have designs tooled on the smooth side using different tools.

The Leather Craft Handbook offers you more information on the various tools that are available and how to use them on future projects.



What Is The Difference Between A Jungle And A Rainforest?

JUNGLE - A jungle usually refers to a dense tropical forest or swamp. Jungles are often considered pre-rainforests, which means that a jungle is a thicket (dense) growth of tropical shrubs, vines and small trees growing outside of a light-blocking canopy covered area (the rainforest part of the tropical forest). A jungle is often found at the edges of a rainforest, but not always.

Did You Know: The word jungle is used to describe many other places and situations. Writers have often described difficult, uncontrolled areas of big cities as “jungles”.

In contrast, the term “The Law of the Jungle” was used by the author Rudyard Kipling in *The Jungle Book* (1894) to mean quite the opposite. In the book, The “Law of the Jungle” means the codes or rules of the land by which the animals live with their surroundings.

RAINFORESTS - These are forests characterized by high rainfall, usually between 68-78 inches per year. While a jungle is dense with undergrowth of vines and shrubs making it difficult to walk through, a rainforest has a high covering or canopy of tree branches and leaves blocking the light from entering in below. The lack of light keeps vines and shrubs from growing. This makes it possible to walk through a rainforest.

Rainforests are home to two-thirds of all the living animal and plant species on Earth. It is believed that there are millions of species still not discovered in rainforests.

There are four different parts or layers of a rainforest. From top to bottom, they are:

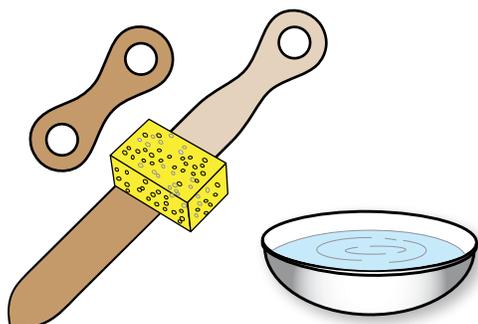
- 1) The **emergent layer:** This layer contains a small number of very tall trees that rise above the general canopy of the rainforest. Found in this layer are eagles, butterflies, bats and monkeys.

Continued ...

LEATHER PREPARATION:

Before you can stamp a design on leather, it needs to be moistened. This is called “casing the leather”. (Note: Sponges can be cut in half.) Students should share sponges and water bowls per table.

- 1) Apply water to the smooth (grain) side of your leather using a clean sponge and water. Dampen leather but not too much.
- 2) Set leather aside and wait until it begins to return to its natural color and feels cool to the touch. Then it is ready to stamp. While waiting for your leather to partially dry, plan the designs.
- 3) If some areas begin to dry too fast, lightly re-dampen with the sponge and water.



Jungles & Rainforests Continued:

- 2) The **canopy layer**: This layer contains the majority of the largest trees, along with 50 percent of the plant species and fauna or animals. The fauna are similar to those found in the emergent layer, but there are more varieties and numbers.
- 3) The **understory layer**: This layer lies between the canopy and forest floor. It is home to lizards, birds, snakes as well as jaguars and leopards. The leaves are very large in this layer and there are huge quantities of insects. Only 5% of sunlight reaches this layer.
- 4) The **forest floor layer**: Only plants requiring very little light will grow in this layer. 2% of sunlight reaches the forest floor.

Did You Know: More than half of the world's species of animals and plants are found in rainforests around the world.

The project for this lesson is to make a leather link belt decorated with Jungle and Rainforest theme designs.

VOCABULARY:

Casing - Adding water to one or both sides of vegetable tanned tooling leather to prepare the surface for tooling.

Flesh Side - The rough (suede) underside of leather.

Grain Side - The hair side of the leather with the hair removed.

Tanning - The process using tannins to change a fresh animal hide into leather.

Tannins - Yellowish substance from oak bark and other plants used to tan leather.

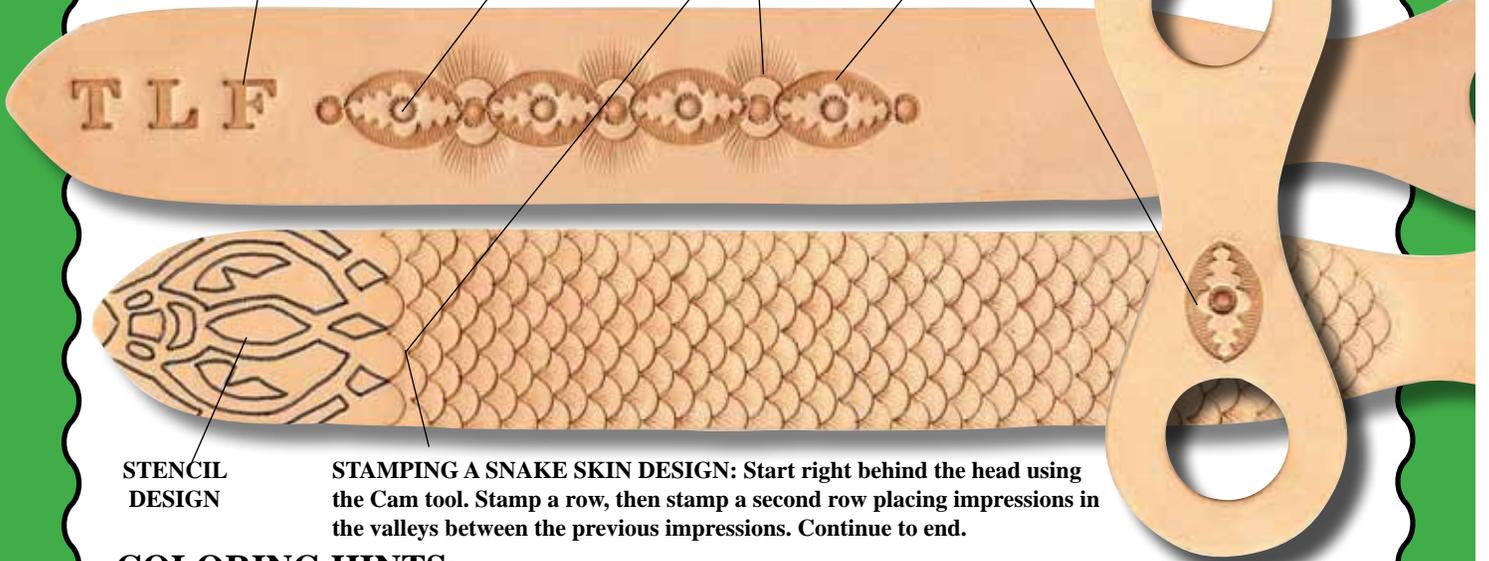
Staining - Adding color to the leather using different types of stains and paints.

Stamping - Using metal stamps with designs or shapes on the end and a mallet to put a design on the grain side of vegetable tanned leather.

Vegetable Tanned (Veg-Tan) - Leather which has been tanned with vegetable materials that are derived from certain plants and woods, often called bark tannins.

CREATE DESIGNS USING DIFFERENT STENCIL PATTERNS & STAMPS

Here are some ideas combining stencil patterns, stamps and alphabet stamps. The same samples are shown on page 1 with color applied. Different coloring techniques can be used: Leave backgrounds natural leather and add color using Cova Colors & Sharpie Pens or apply All-In-One Color Stain & Finish over the entire project. Then go back and add additional color.



STENCIL DESIGN

STAMPING A SNAKE SKIN DESIGN: Start right behind the head using the Cam tool. Stamp a row, then stamp a second row placing impressions in the valleys between the previous impressions. Continue to end.

COLORING HINTS:

WHEN USING ACRYLIC PAINTS over All-In-One, make light colors stand out on the dark background by first painting the inside of the design with white acrylic paint. Let it dry completely (few minutes), then paint over the white with the desired color.

MIXING COLORS: The primary colors (red, yellow & blue) can be mixed to create the secondary colors (orange, green & purple). Add white to lighten and black to darken a color.



CLASSROOM EXPANSION IDEAS:

- ~ Study more about Rainforests and the animals, insects and plants in them.
- ~ Study how the Jungles and Rainforest effect the ecology of our earth.

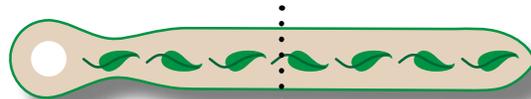


RECYCLE ME!

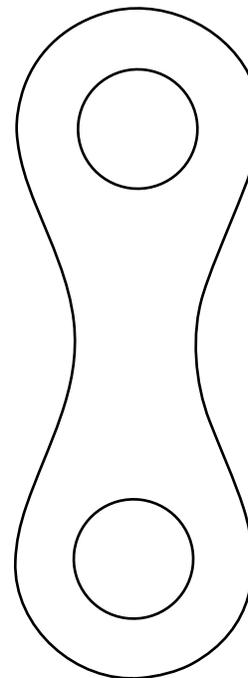
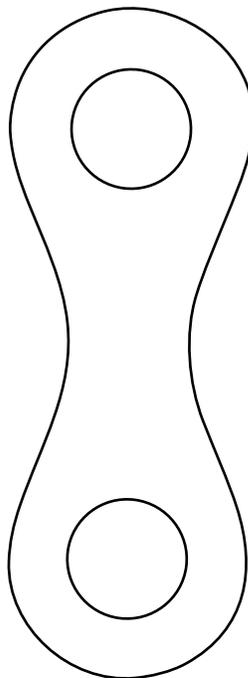
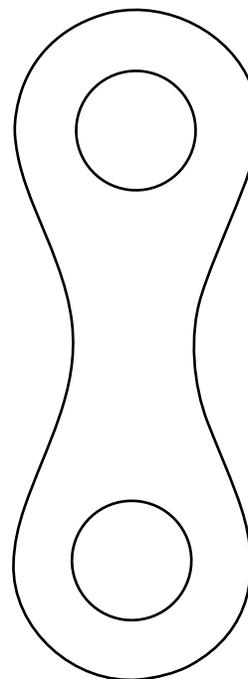
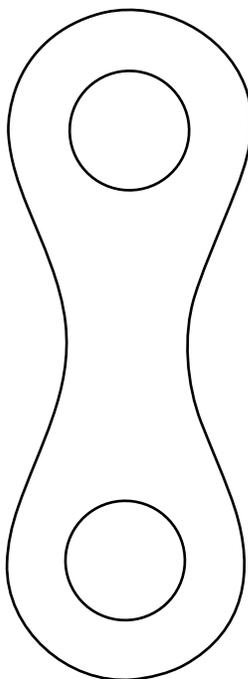
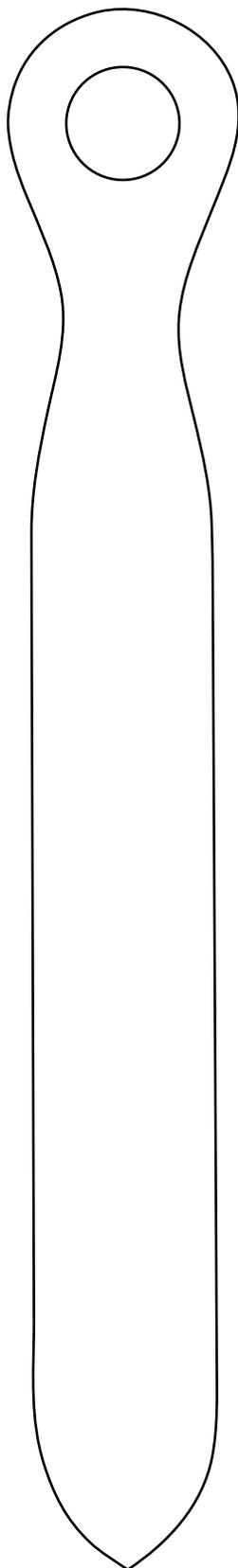
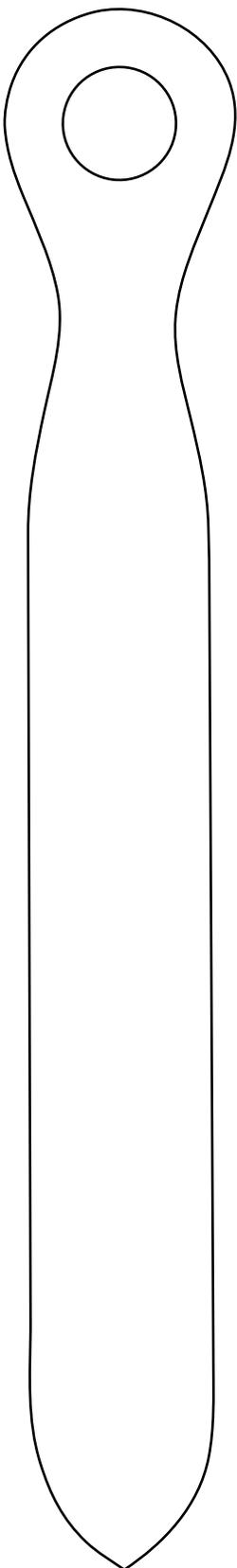
“I am your Theme Bucket - be sure to recycle me! I would like to end up in your closet with many of my friends. I could store art supplies, extra leather project parts, or even help you organize your files. Create a new label for me so I can help you find what is stored in me. But until it’s time to recycle, I am happy to bring fun & learning into your classroom by offering you Projects To-Go from Tandy Leather Factory.”

TEMPLATES FOR PLANNING DESIGNS

Copy, cut apart on dotted lines and hand out to students.



NOTE: After the belt is fastened through the rings, only about one-half of the billet front will be visible, along with the backside of the billet end. Be sure to have students plan their designs accordingly and apply to both sides of billet.



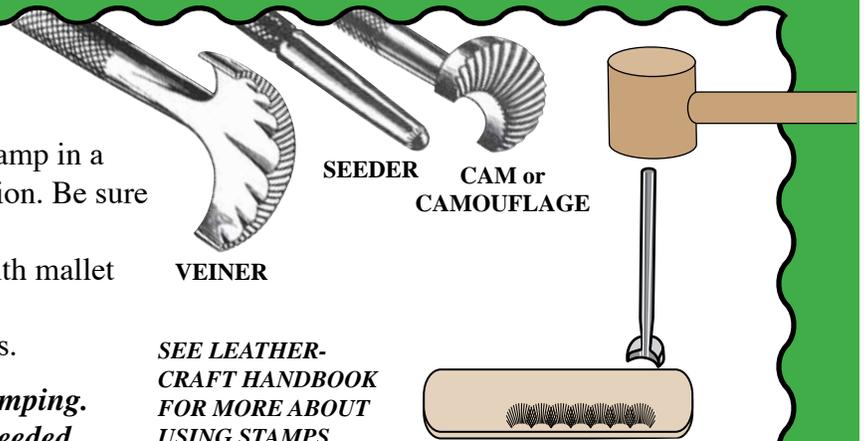
STAMPING Instructions:

(Shown here on a leather strip.)

- 1) After leather has been cased, hold stamp in a vertical (straight up and down) position. Be sure stamp is facing the desired direction.
- 2) Strike handle end of stamp firmly with mallet to leave a deep impression.
- 3) Repeat with same or different stamps.

Be sure to keep leather damp while stamping.
Reapply water lightly with sponge as needed.

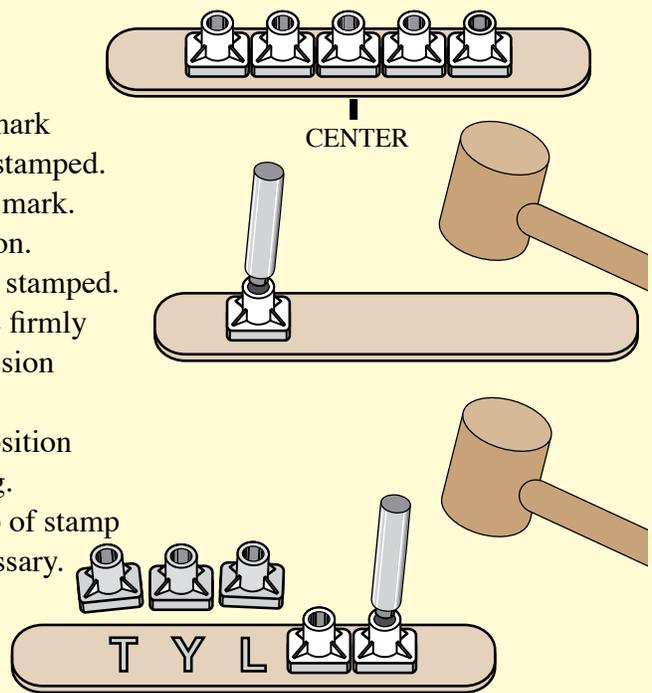
SEE LEATHER-
 CRAFT HANDBOOK
 FOR MORE ABOUT
 USING STAMPS



STAMPING Alphabets:

(Shown here on a leather strip.)

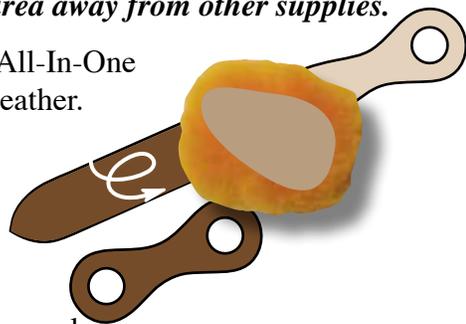
- 1) To stamp two or more letters in a row, first mark the center of the space where letters will be stamped.
- 2) Place stamps side by side, centered over the mark. Be sure stamps are facing the correct direction.
- 3) Remove all stamps except the first one to be stamped.
- 4) Insert stamp setter in top of stamp and strike firmly with mallet. Repeat if necessary until impression shows clearly in the leather.
- 5) Place 1st stamp back over its impression. Position 2nd stamp next to the first for proper spacing.
- 6) Remove 1st stamp. Insert stamp setter in top of stamp and strike firmly with mallet. Repeat if necessary.
- 7) Repeat with rest of letters.
- 8) Allow project to dry completely before applying All-In-One Stain & Finish.



STAINING THE LEATHER:

You will be using All-In-One Stain & Finish which is a color and finish combined for speed. Be sure to work quickly and in a special staining area away from other supplies.

- 1) Shake bottle well. Transfer a liberal (heavy) amount of All-In-One onto a piece of sheep wool, but never directly onto the leather.
 NOTE: Only one coat is needed.
- 2) Then apply to leather quickly, rubbing in a circular motion until color is even and all cuts and impressions are full of stain.
- 3) Remove excess with a clean piece of sheep wool. Then, buff to a mellow gloss with a clean piece of sheep wool.



OPTION: After stain is dry, come back and add more color using colored markers or acrylic paints.

SIZING & ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS:

SIZE THE LINK BELT TO FIT YOUR WAIST, ANKLE OR HAT:

- 1) Put link belt or band together following the steps below. Notice how the links overlap so if designs are being put on the links, they can be placed so they will show.
- 2) Add as many links as necessary to fit your waist, wrist or a hat.
- 3) Then take the belt (band) apart again and stamp and color designs on all parts before final assembly.

ASSEMBLING THE LINK BELT:

- 1) Take one link and squeeze one end and push it through 2 rings.
- 2) Pull link half way through the rings and fold over aligning the big holes in both ends.
- 3) Take another link, squeeze one end, and push it through the aligned holes in the first link. Continue to the last link.
- 4) Squeeze the end of the billet with the large hole and push it through the last links' aligned hole.
- 5) Turn the tip of the billet up and push it through its own big hole in its end.
- 6) Pull billet through the hole.

FASTENING THE BELT:



- Slip billet up through both rings.
- Loop billet over edge of top ring only and slip back under top ring.
- Pull tight.

