

Create Your Own Crown

with teaching artist Nicoletta Daríta de la Brown

Grade Band: 3-12

Arts Subject: Arts and Crafts

SUMMARY

Teaching artist Nicoletta Daríta de la Brown explains how to create wearable sculpture—a crown, or headdress—with materials found around the house.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students Will:

- Gather found materials in your home to turn into wearable sculpture
- Attach found materials to a base to create your own unique crown or headdress

GETTING STARTED

Vocabulary You Will Learn:

- **Adorn**—To use objects, such as ornaments, to enhance the appearance of an object or person.
- **Headdress**—A type of head covering. Some headdresses may have a strong cultural significance for the wearer.

Materials You Will Need:

- Material for the base of your crown, such as a headband, hat, foil, or wire
- Objects to decorate your crown, such as flowers, tissue paper, feathers, and anything else you want to use
- Fasteners to attach your decorations to your base, such as tape or fabric that can be wrapped and tied

[**WATCH THE VIDEO**](#)

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TRY IT YOURSELF

How to Create Your Crown with Materials Found in Your Own Home

1. First, **gather** the materials you'll need to make your headdress.
 - a. For the base, you'll need a headband or hat, or some material you can mold to fit your head, such as tin foil, wire, or cardboard.
 - b. You'll also need materials to decorate your base, such as flowers, feathers, tissue paper, and any other objects you want. You can look all over your home, as Nicoletta does, to collect materials that look interesting to you. Be creative!
 - c. Finally, you'll need tape or fabric that can be wrapped and tied to attach the materials to your base.
2. Next, you're going to **make** your crown!
 - a. Start by shaping the base of your crown out of whatever materials you are using to create it. If you are using a base that doesn't require shaping, such as a headband or hat, you can skip this step.
 - b. Next, you're going to decorate your crown with the materials you collected. Use the tape or other fastening material to cover the base with your collection of materials in any way that looks beautiful to you!
3. Finally, it's time to **activate** your crown and bring it to life!
 - a. First, stand still with the crown on your head to get used to how it feels. You may also do some small, subtle movements if that helps you become acclimated to how the crown feels.
 - b. Now start to move your body while wearing the crown. You can walk, put on some music and dance, kick, crouch, or do whatever feels right to you! The idea is to try to embody a character, or a version of yourself, that feels at home in your crown.

THINK ABOUT

In the video, Nicoletta challenges us to be creative and unconventional as we use found materials to create our own crown—and then to use our bodies to activate our crown. If you want to go even further, think about these questions:

- What kind of character might wear the crown that you created? How can you use your body to become that character? How does the character walk, or sit, or dance?

- How would making changes to the crown change the character who wears it? Experiment with adding materials to, or taking them away from, the crown. What kind of character wears this crown, as opposed to the one you created initially?
- Nicoletta talks about using her headdress to show the world things about herself that are invisible. What do you want to show the world about yourself that can't be seen from the outside? How can you choose materials and create a crown that shows these things?
- Now that you've created a crown with found objects in your home, could you find materials elsewhere to create a crown with? What about leaves or sticks from outside, or paper napkins and straws from a restaurant? Where else could you find materials to be creative with?

MORE ABOUT THE TEACHING ARTIST

Nicoletta Daríta de la Brown (she/they) is an award-winning interdisciplinary artist and chamána (shaman) who comes from a long line of healers. She is Black Latinx, proud to be a first-generation Panamanian born in the United States. Her artworks reconceive the life of an artist as thriving, nourishing herself and others during and through her art practice. She teaches “Mindfulness in Art Practice” at the Baltimore School for the Arts; formerly, she was a sculpture professor at Towson University and adjunct faculty in the MFA Community Arts Program at Maryland Institute College of Art. For more information, visit: <https://vidamagica.love>.

ACCESSIBILITY NOTES

Don't forget that you can turn on "Closed Captioning" when watching the YouTube video to view English captions. Modify handouts and give preferential seating for visual presentations. Allow extra time for task completion.

CREDITS

Original Video: Nicoletta Daríta de la Brown

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