

NAME COLLAGE

Our names identify who we are. They can hold family histories or be self-proclaimed. This fun, at-home, project uses the letters of your name to make a beautiful collage. It can be made using simple materials found at home or outside. Use this activity to explore the story behind your name and connect with your family members!



This art activity is inspired by the artist Phung Hyunh's piece *Embroidered CA License Plates* (2019-20), which is part of the exhibition *We Are Here: Art and Asian Voices in Los Angeles*.

Prompts for Looking at Art:

Take a close look at the picture below (image 1). What do you notice? What looks familiar and what looks unfamiliar?

You might recognize the design of a California license plate with a name on it. Perhaps it reminds you of souvenirs you've seen at gift shops, like keychains or magnets. Do you ever have trouble finding your name on souvenir items, such as these?

As a child, artist Phung Hyunh had a difficult time finding her name on touristy souvenirs in America, because her name is Cambodian. This made her feel sad and unwelcome. In her artwork (image 2), she cross-stitched the names of other Cambodian and Vietnamese Americans she admires in order to highlight their presence in the community and create inclusivity.



Image 1 - Close up



Image 2 - Installation photo

Questions to Inspire Your Artwork:

- Is there a story behind your name?
- Do you share a name with a family member?
- Do you have a nickname you prefer to go by? How did you get it or choose it?

What is a *collage*? A collage is an artwork made by gluing materials such as paper onto another surface. It comes from the French word *coller*, which means “to glue”.

Basic Materials Needed:

- Paper or piece of cardboard (any size)
- Scissors
- Pencil or any writing instrument
- Glue (white glue preferred for heavier items but glue stick works too!)

Additional Supply Ideas:

- Construction paper
- Magazines, newspapers, junk mail
- Pom-poms
- Pipe cleaners
- Stickers
- Shells
- Ribbon/yarn
- Dry food like beans, pasta, or rice
- Nature: flowers, twigs, leaves, grass, tiny rocks
- Anything that can be attached with glue!

Instructions:

Step 1

Gather your materials and decide what you want each letter to be made of. Cut or tear the materials to the appropriate size if needed



Step 2

Write your name on a sheet of paper. This will be your stencil for the collage. Try to make the letters large enough to fill up the entire sheet. If you use a pencil, you can fix any mistakes with an eraser!

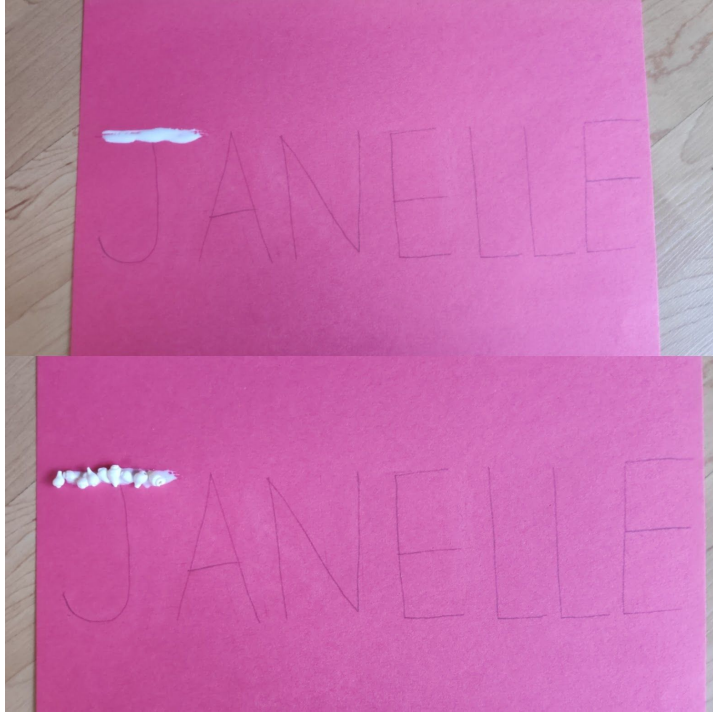


Step 3

Take your glue and either:

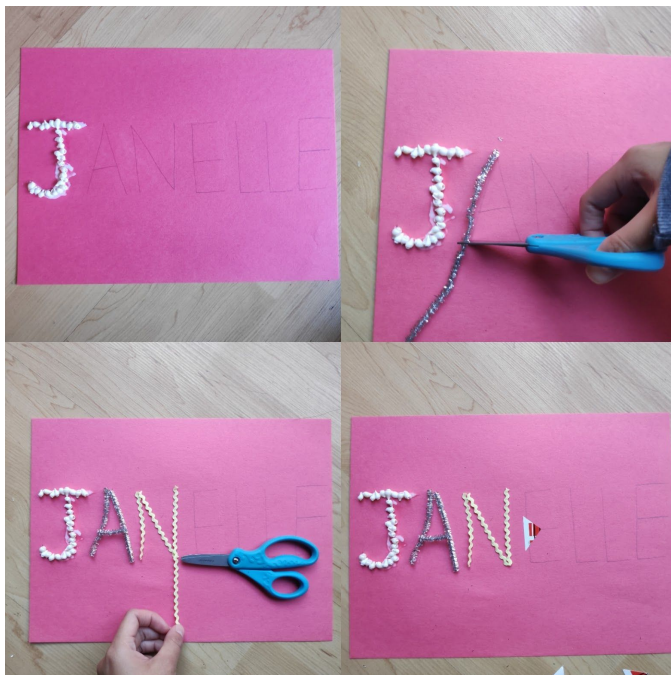
- a. trace over the letter
- b. put glue on the object and then adhere to paper

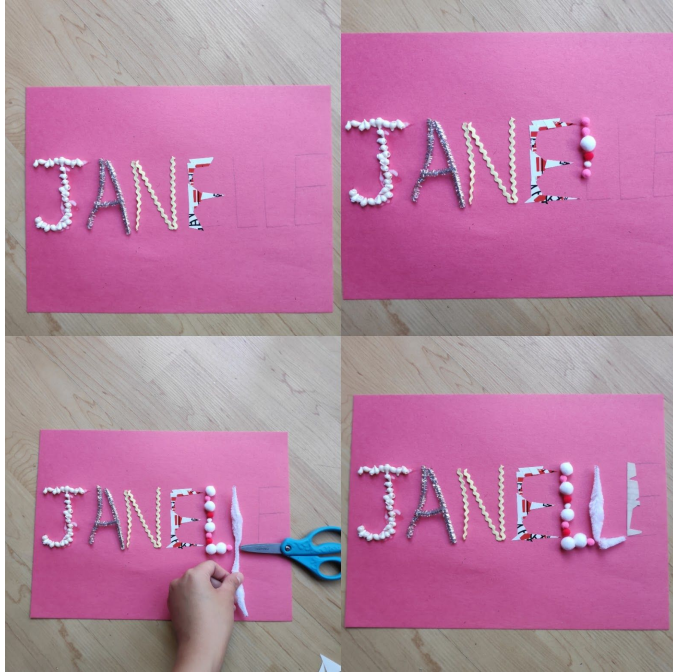
**You may need to alternate between these techniques for the different materials you use*



Step 4

Start attaching the different materials to each letter. Get creative with this! Think about how the items you select represent something about you (like maybe pasta is your favorite food!)





Step 5

Share your work with your family and friends!



This project was designed by Janelle Sangalang, School Tours Coordinator, for the USC Pacific Asia Museum Education Department