

Make Your Own Manuscript

**This idea can be linked to a variety of subject areas. Some writing suggestions are listed at the end of the lesson.*

Purpose: To have children apply the knowledge they have gained about traditional Indian palm leaf manuscripts, by creating their own version in the classroom.

Kindergarten Standards: (ICSD Power Standards displayed in bold)

Power NYSCCLS ELA Standards (ICSD) - Writing Standards: Kindergarten

- Responding to Literature
 11. Create and/or present a poem, dramatization, artwork, or personal response to a particular author or theme studied in class, with support as needed.

Language Standards: Kindergarten

- Conventions of Standard English
 1. **Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.**
 2. **Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.**

Materials:

- Cardstock (enough for each student to make their own book)
- Scissors/paper cutter (depending on if you or your students are doing the cutting)
- Heavy weight string or yarn
- Cardboard/boxboard (from old cereal boxes, etc.)
- Markers/pens/pencils
- Hole punch (multiple if having children do the punching)
- Palm Leaf Manuscript Photo Card

Set Up:

- Make copies of the cardstock template. You can use the attached template or make your own size. **If you want to have the children write on both sides of the cards, be sure to copy the template back to back. Make sure the cutting lines on the cards match up when you make your copies.*
- Cut the cardstock into strips. (You may want your students to do this part.)
- Precut strings for tying manuscripts to desired length. (The string needs to be long enough to feed through the manuscript and tie in a bow at the top – 12"-16" should be sufficient.) It is best if you pre-knot or tape one end of the string, so it won't pull all the way through the punched hole. If you are using a thin string, you may want to tie a bead to the end of the knot.
- Cut boxboard rectangles approximately ¼" larger (on all sides) than the cardstock strips. These will be used for the front and back cover, so you will need two per child.

Guided Instruction:

TEACHER: (Hold up the palm leaf manuscript photo card.) We have learned a lot about the ancient Indian tradition of making manuscripts from palm leaves. Today you get to make your own manuscripts! Instead of using pressed palm leaves, we will use a special heavy paper called "cardstock," like they used to make the book in the photo. Let's get started!

- Begin by showing the kids the paper strips they will be using for their writing. (If you are having the kids cut their own strips, demonstrate how to cut the strips along the dotted line.)
- Show them the **X**'s on each strip, and tell them not to write over the top of them. The **X** is where the cards will get punched when they are completed.
- Discuss with the children what they will be writing in their manuscripts. Be sure to demonstrate how to number the pages of their manuscripts as they write, so they will be easy to assemble. Remind the children to do their best writing and try to fit the words neatly on each page.
- Next, demonstrate how to use a hole punch to make two holes on the side of each card. Make sure to punch holes only where you see the "X's."
- Show how to use the two boxboard /cardboard rectangles to make the front and back covers. Center one of the template cards on the cover to help you mark where to punch the holes.
- The children should write the name of their manuscript on the front cover, and their own name on the back cover. They may also use the markers to add some decoration.
- Have the children put all of their manuscript pages in order, and add the front and back covers to the top and bottom of the pile.
- Once the cards are all aligned, the kids can thread the string through the holes. (Have them start threading the string *down* through one of the holes on the cover. When the thread is pulled all the way through the pile, have them come *up* through the holes on the other side. The two ends should be hanging out of the top of the pile when completed.)
- Tie or tape the other end of the string, and show the kids how to tie a bow to hold the pages all together. **This is great for kids who still need practice tying.*
- When the bow is untied, the pages should slide freely along the string.

Below are some writing suggestions. Feel free to incorporate this project into any subject you are currently working on in the classroom.

- Copy the lines from a favorite classroom poem, or a traditional Indian poem.
- Make a manuscript of sight word cards.
- Make a manuscript of simple addition and subtraction problems (with the answers on the back). **Be sure to demonstrate to the kids how to flip the card over to write the answers, so they are not upside down when they assemble their books.*
- Do a book of science vocabulary words and illustrations. The illustrations could be next to the word, or on the back of the card.
- Have the kids choose a story from writing workshop that they want to "publish" and make into a manuscript.