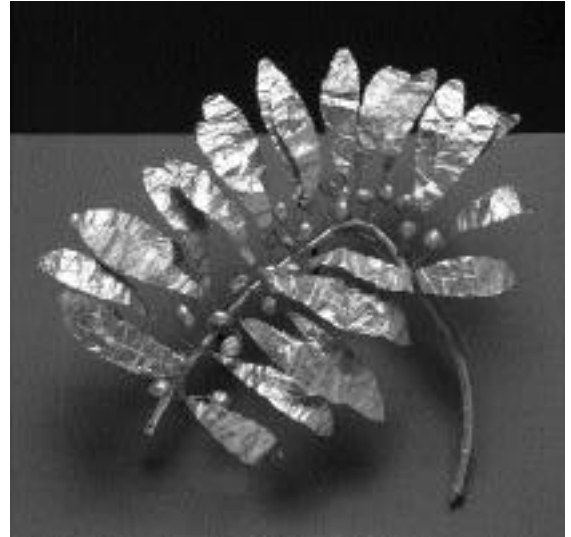


# VICTOR'S WREATHS Children's art activity

**GOLD WREATHS WERE MADE** by the Greeks to be given to the winners of important festival competitions and were usually buried with their owners. Winners of Panhellenic athletic events were given wreaths made from the branches of real sacred plants, such as the olive tree, tied at the back and worn on the head like a crown. Gold wreaths, made to look like plants, were given at other festivals. The plants were usually associated with a patron god or goddess and served as symbol of life and vigor that complemented the strength of the athlete. Being strong, physically fit and having a beautiful body was an important goal for the ancient Greeks. Maintaining a sharp and imaginative mind was equally valued. Wreaths were also given to the victors of poetry, music, and drama competitions. Ancient Greek metalsmiths were particularly skilled in working gold. The *Wreath with Olives and Olive Leaves* in the Carlos Museum is a stunningly beautiful example of craftsmanship and skill. Gold wreaths were sometimes used



to decorate the heads of statues of gods and goddesses and carried on procession in religious ceremonies. Did you know that the ancient city of Nemea used celery to make victor's wreaths? You could say that the victors of Nemea had salad days! What kind of plant would you choose for a victor's wreath?



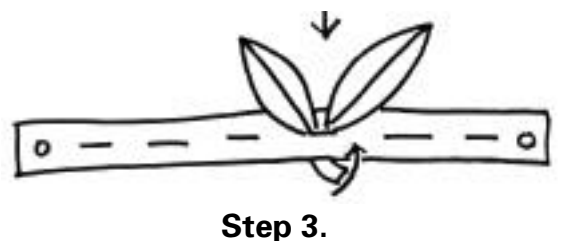
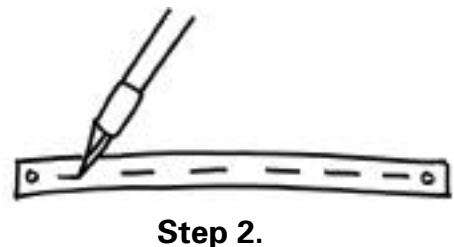
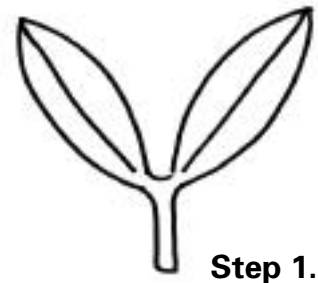
**Wreath of Olives and Olive Leaves**  
Greek. Early Hellenistic Period,  
4th-3rd centuries B.C. Gold.  
Carlos Collection of Ancient Greek Art

## Materials

gold tooling foil  
scissors  
rulers  
gloves  
1 x 22 inch strips of gold cardboard  
staplers  
pencils  
leaf templates  
rulers

## How to:

- Step 1. Draw leaves using template and cut from tooling foil with scissors. Be careful to leave a stem.
- Step 2. Using a pencil and ruler draw a series of line centered along the length of the cardboard strip. Ask an adult to cut the lines into slits with an x-acto knife.
- Step 3. Insert gold leaves stem first into slits and fold stems up to hold secure.



Step 4. Fit the cardboard strip around the head, and staple.



**Step 4.**

Step 5. Place your gold wreath on your head and wear it proudly!



**Step 5.**