

HOCPP 1153

In The Hands of A Child

Early Childhood



Project Pack

Learning With Leprechauns



A Ready-to-Assemble
Hands-On Unit
Including Reproducibles



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Learning with Leprechauns

HOCPP 1153
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Bringing Laughter and Learning Together In the Hands of a Child

From the day we first began using and creating Project Packs we fell in love with them. We knew that this type of hands-on learning experience was just the thing that was needed to make boring unit studies not only educational but fun and exciting too!

To help you get started with your Project Pack, we have included some of the most frequently asked questions we receive about our Project Packs.

What is a Project Pack?

A Project Pack contains both the activities and the lesson plans or research guide needed to complete the activities. Imagine your child not only learning about the life cycle of a butterfly, but also creating a cocoon of his or her own. Students don't just read the story, *Blueberry Sal* by Robert McCloskey- they enjoy a "blue day" complete with a recipe for blueberry pancakes, making a "blue" collage, and don't forget painting a "blue" picture!

Why is this a better way to learn? How does this help me?

Student learning improves when lessons incorporate hands-on projects or crafts. Children learn by doing. Project Packs put learning into their hands! The possibilities are endless when your student begins a lapbook with a Project Pack from In the Hands of a Child. There are no age or skill limits and any topic or subject can be worked into a Project Pack.

When you purchase a Project Pack from In the Hands of a Child, all the work is done for you-the parent/teacher, but not for the student. In addition, Project Packs are easy to store, are an instant review tool, scrapbook, and a ready-made portfolio of all your student's studies.

How do I make a Project Pack?

A Project Pack is simply a file folder refolded into a shutter-style book. Open a file folder flat, fold each side into the middle and crease the fold neatly. There you have it!

What supplies do I need?

You need file folders, paper in different colors and weights*, your student's favorite coloring tools, tape, glue, scissors, and a stapler.

*For a more colorful and appealing Project Pack, it is suggested you print some of the reproducible graphics on colorful, multi-purpose paper. We recommend 24# weight or cardstock.

Adapting a Project Pack to Fit the Needs of Your Student

Adapting a Project or Research Pack is key to ensuring that you provide the best lesson for your student. At first glance, some might just skip over an activity because they feel it is too easy or too difficult for their student. We want you to use all the activities we provide...they are easily adaptable!

For example, if you have a PK-3 student the vocabulary activities might be difficult for him or her to complete. Here are some tips to help you adapt the activities that require your student to write:

1. Have your student dictate vocabulary words and their meanings as you write them.
2. Have your child draw a picture instead of writing.
3. You write the word or sentence first so your student can see how it is written (many of our Project Packs also include activities with dotted lines for easy copy work).
4. Practice. Practice. Practice. In the car, on a walk, in the shopping cart! Practice saying the vocabulary words and what they mean. Before you know it your preschooler will be telling others what those words mean!
5. Contact us. We would be happy to give you ideas for adapting specific units to a grade level.

On the other hand, some of the activities may seem too easy for your student. Does your 5th grade level student want to learn about butterflies, but the Project Pack seems too easy? Try it anyway; just change things up a bit to suit your student's grade level and skill. Here are some tips to help you adapt the activities to make them a little more difficult:

1. In addition to writing down vocabulary words and their meanings, ask your student to use the word in a sentence; either verbally or written.
2. Give your student one hour (or reasonable time frame) to research the topic on his or her own either online or at the library. Give your student a set of questions and see what he or she can find without your guidance.
3. Encourage your student to expand on the topic or choose a related subject to learn about.
4. Take a look at some of our preschool units...there is a lot of clipart related to each topic included. Have an older student cut these out and write a story or play about the pictures.
5. Contact us. We would be happy to give you ideas for adapting specific units to a grade level.

These are just few ways you can adapt a Project Pack to meet the needs of your student. Let your student be the judge if something is too easy or too difficult...you just might be surprised!

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Learning with Leprechauns Project Pack

St. Patrick's Day is a holiday that is celebrated every year on March 17. Celebrated by the Irish and other people throughout the world, this holiday honors St. Patrick. St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. He is credited for bringing Christianity to Ireland.

Supplies List

General Supplies Needed:

Scissors
Adhesive
Colored Pencils or crayons
Stapler

Other Supplies Needed for Each Activity:

Day 1

- None

Day 2

- Paper Lunch Sack
- Wiggle eyes (optional)
- Styrofoam cup
- Potting Soil
- Grass Seed
- Markers

Day 3

- Lucky Charms Cereal

Day 4

- Small terra cotta pot
- Gold coin candies
- Shredded paper
- Gold paint

Day 5

- Green cardstock or construction paper
- Green pipe cleaners (2 per hat)
- Brad

Activity 6 Grow Your Own Leprechaun

*Reproducible Needed

- Growth chart

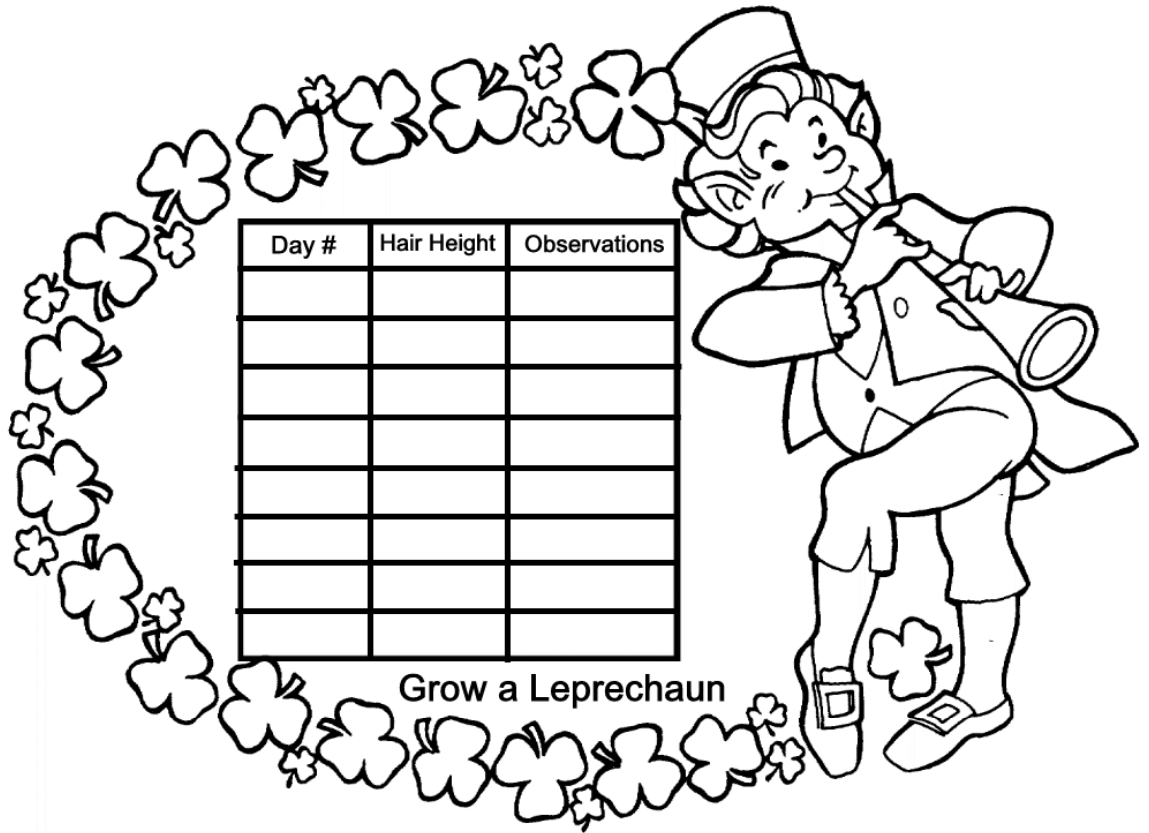
*Other Supplies Needed

- Styrofoam cup
- Potting Soil
- Grass Seed
- Markers

*Activity Instructions

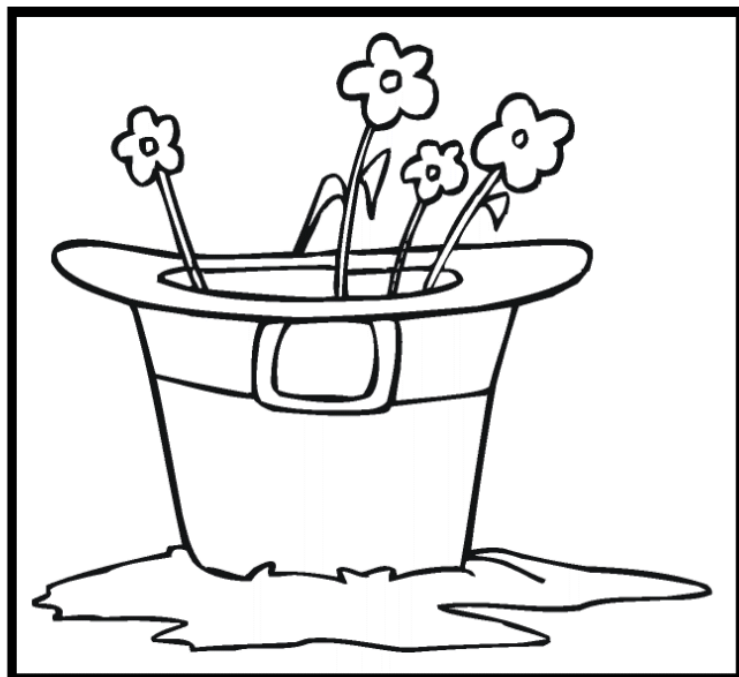
- Have student draw a face on the cup with markers
- Place potting soil in cup
- Sprinkle grass seed on top and gently cover it with the soil
- Water using a spray bottle
- Have student record the growth of the “Leprechaun hair” on the chart provided

Activity 6



Grow a Leprechaun

Day #	Hair Height	Observations



A Picture to Color

Recommended Reading

A Fine St. Patrick's Day by Susan Wojciechowski

Clever Tom and the Leprechaun: An Old Irish Story by Linda Shute

Hooray, For St. Patrick's Day! by Joan Holub

Jack and the Leprechaun by Ivan Robertson

Look What Came From Ireland by Miles Harvey

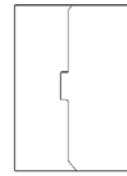
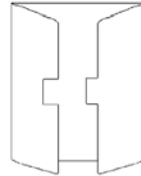
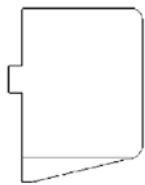
Luck of the Irish by Brendan Patrick Paulsen

St. Patrick's Day by Gail Gibbons

St. Patrick's Day Alphabet by Beverly Barras Vidrine

That's What Leprechauns Do by Eve Bunting

Instructions to Re-fold a Folder



Normal Fold:

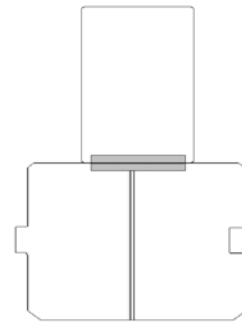
Open folder flat

Fold both the right and left edge to the center crease creating a shutter

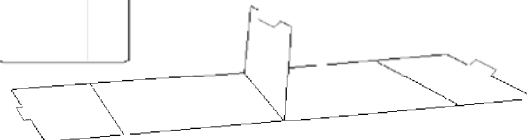
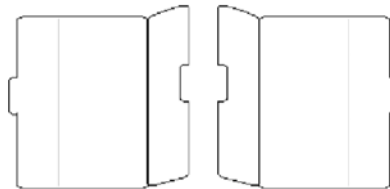
Cut a folder in half OR use a piece of cardstock to form your extension

Lay the extension in the center of the shutter fold folder

Attach at the top end using clear packing tape



Double Folder:



Open folder flat

Fold both the right and left edge in toward the center crease creating a shutter

Do this again with a second folder

Set both folders side by side with their shutters opened (pointing straight up not flat)

In the center where the two folders meet glue the outer flaps of each shutter together connecting the two folders

Fold both shutters closed and flip over and close

The back of one of the folders becomes your cover

***You can add extensions to a double folder using the same method as for a single folder.

