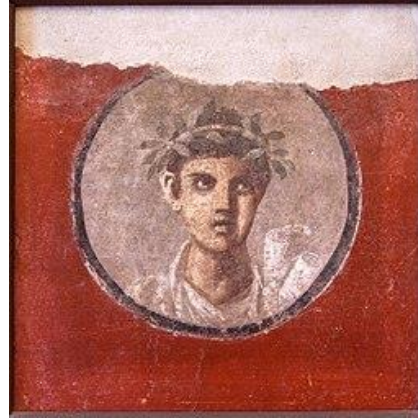


Reliable Romans: laurel wreath



Picture, top right: Fresco from Pompeii showing a young man wearing a laurel wreath. By Jebulon - Own work, CC0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=48811277>

A Roman wore a laurel wreath on their head to celebrate an achievement in sports, music and poetry as well as a victory in battle. Sometimes a Roman Emperor would wear one, as laurel leaves were also a symbol of power. Emperor Julius Caesar is said to have worn one to cover his receding hairline!

To make a laurel wreath, you will need: 1 standard pipe cleaner, two strips of thin card (approximately 29.5cm x 3cm), an A4 sheet of coloured paper, a pencil, scissors, a glue stick and sticky tape. **Optional:** a ruler, a felt tip pen, glue dots.

Instructions:

1. Take two strips of thin card of the same length as a standard pipe cleaner; each strip should be approximately 29.5cm x 3cm. Attach one end of each strip to the other, making one long strip, using sticky tape.
2. With sticky tape, attach a pipe cleaner along the middle of one of the strips.
3. Fold over the thin card strip (where the sticky tape is located) and secure into place with glue and sticky tape, so you are left with one strip encasing the pipe cleaner. Leave to dry.
4. Fold in half and then half again the piece of A4 coloured paper. We used a sheet of orange construction paper.
5. Draw six leaves on the paper, then cut them out through all the layers; they don't need to be identical. Optional: draw veins on each leaf with a felt tip pen.
6. Bend the pipe cleaner and card strip into a curve or semi-circle that fits around your head.
7. Glue one leaf onto each end of the strip. We used glue dots, but you can use a glue stick instead.
8. Take two leaves, then glue each pair together to make a 'V' shape. Glue two pairs of leaves onto the strip, one onto each side, behind the single leaf.
9. Add more pairs of leaves, two pairs at a time, on either side of the strip until you have covered most of the strip.
10. Where they almost meet, glue one leaf pointing upwards and another leaf pointing downwards. If necessary, leave to dry.
11. Your laurel wreath is complete! Wear your laurel wreath with pride as a Roman would have done!