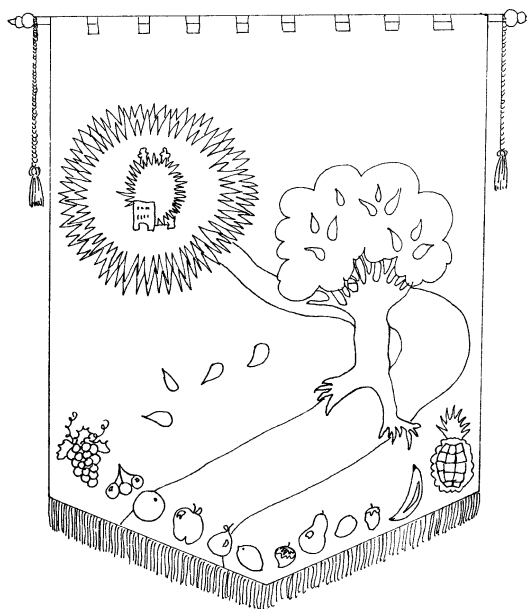


Tree of Life Banner



Materials and Supplies

a large piece of felt for the background

Note: felt is inexpensive, the edges the fabric do not fray, and it hangs flat when displayed.

dowel rod or inexpensive curtain rod for hanging (or just tack to a bulletin board)

small felt squares of various colors

scissors

paper

felt-tip colored markers

glue

stencil for lettering (optional)

Procedure

1. The class will work *together* to make a banner with a *single* picture and message.
2. Read the story about the Tree of Life and the Water of Life (Revelation 22:1-4).
3. Talk about how to picture the throne, the river of water, and the Tree of Life.

Note: There is one tree that spans the river rather than two trees.

4. Make a rough sketch of the design for the banner.
5. Assign responsibility for different parts of the banner to each person:
 - throne
 - river of water of life
 - Tree of Life (trunk and branches with or without any leaves)
 - leaves of healing
 - twelve fruits
 - letters for the title or caption (have several students work on this task)
6. Once the pieces are cut, place them all to see how they fit, then glue them down.

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7. Sew fabric loops to the top or turn down the top edge and sew a continuous opening for a large wooden dowel or an inexpensive curtain rode. This is an attractive way to display a banner but you can also tack it to a bulletin board.
8. Choose a title for the banner, such as:

The Tree of Life with Twelve Fruits and Leaves for Healing.
(see Revelation 22:2)

9. Make the title for the banner. For felt letters, use a stencil to mark the letters directly onto the felt and then cut out the letters. This will give uniformity to the letters and is a nice job for someone who does not feel particularly artistic. (Alternatively, you can purchase ready-made punch-out letters, type the heading out on the computer, or have someone write out the heading with attractive lettering on paper or cardboard.)

Helpful hint: write out the lettering that you are using for the title. Students often become confused about spelling when they do things letter by letter.

10. Glue the letters onto the banner unless it is a sign to hang next to it., gluing Decide on a title for the banner if you haven't already. (Unless you have planned it ahead of time,

General note:

Involve the students in as much of this process as you think they can manage. For a younger group, you may get the basic framework of the banner all set before class. For an older group, you may involve them in decisions about what shape the banner should be (*e.g.* a plain rectangle, a pennant, or a shield). The more the students are involved in the process, the more they will take ownership and pride in the finished product.