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2021-2022

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"Cricut Maker" Makes the Class!

CRICUT MAKER MAKES THE CLASS!

Disseminator: Daniella Parra
Aventura Waterways K-8 Center
School Mail Code:

For more information concerning Ideas with IMPACT opportunities including Adapter and Disseminator grants, please contact:

Audrey Onyeike, Program Director

Ideas with IMPACT

The Education Fund

305-558-4544, EXT 113

Email: audrey@educationfund.org

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Goals and Objectives

Hands-On Learning

The world seemed to have turned itself upside down when fears of Covid-19 led to school closures in the Spring of 2020. As educators, we took a breath and then went right back to work. However, all the tools and hands-on materials we relied on were no longer available to us or students. For one, there were not enough of the pricey items to send each child home with. Secondly, there were concerns that students would break or lose the pricey items – and then we would be unable to replace them. Now that we are back in the classroom, the concern is that students are not allowed to share items as we have always done in the past. As a response to these concerns, teachers got creative and searched for items from home that could be used to practice skills (i.e., use grapes, toy cars, or toy Legos as counters). It was during this time that I found myself using the Cricut Maker, an advanced cutting machine, to create manipulatives out of cardstock paper that I could send home with students for their own personal use in practicing skills and abstract concepts. The goal of this project is to give teachers the confidence to use a Cricut to design and create their own materials for use inside and out of the classroom. This machine can be used to create personalized detailed cut outs to be used as manipulatives, decorations, projects, and even as a way to organize and team-build in the classroom.

Florida Standards

Science Standards

SC.2.N.1.1: Raise questions about the natural world, investigate them in teams through free exploration and systematic observations, and generate appropriate explanations based on those explorations.

Math Standards - Kindergarten

MA.K.NSO.1: Develop an understanding for counting using objects in a set.

Math Standards – First Grade

MA.1.AR.1: Develop an understanding of the relationship between addition and subtraction.

MA.1.FR.1: Develop an understanding of fractions by partitioning shapes into halves and fourths.

Math Standards – Second Grade

MA.2.GR.1: Identify and analyze two-dimensional figures and identify lines of symmetry.

Math Standards – Third Grade

MAFS.3.OA.1: Represent and solve problems involving multiplication and division

MAFS.3.G.1: Reason with shapes and their attributes.

MAFS.3.MD.3: Understand concepts of area and relate to multiplication and to division.

Math Standards – Fourth Grade

MA.4.GR.1: Draw, classify, and measure angles.

Overview

Knowledge & Experience – Within Reach!

For many, the purchase of a new technological tool like the Cricut can feel daunting. But rest assured, the Cricut has many different models that range from simple to more advanced and there is a plethora of free and friendly advice to be found via facebook groups and youtube videos. Access to the Cricut Design Studio is included with each purchase of a Cricut machine. The design studio offers a place to create your own design out of images or text. But if you do not feel like you are creative enough or have enough time to create a design, you can find many designs available for free or a small price via the design studio shop, etsy, or teachers-pay-teachers. Teachers then need only select the design, select the material they will be cutting, and press START. What would have taken hours to cut by hand can be reduced to mere minutes in exact detail. Then students can enjoy learning with their own customized manipulatives and/or projects!

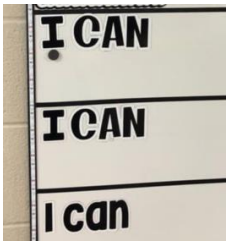
Student Engagement and Teamwork

Representational models are important in mathematical instruction. Not only do they give students a concrete way of working on abstract concepts, but they allow them to manipulate and work with tools to better understand and also to communicate their level of understanding. Since the manipulatives will be made by the teacher specifically for their group of students, they have the freedom to design the tools into shapes, items, or colors that they feel would better engage their group of students. Depending on how you want to use the Cricut, you can cut your own magnet shapes, laminated paper, even balsa wood. The possibilities of how to use this machine are endless and so once the teacher feels comfortable, they can expand into creating other items to enhance

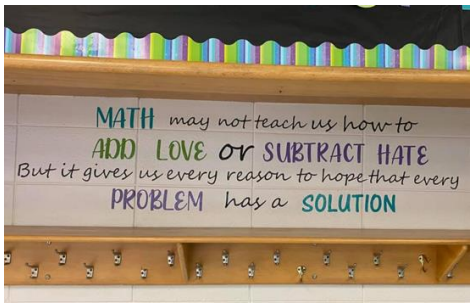
the classroom. For example, teachers can create personalized bulletin board decorations, name tags, t-shirts, and stickers. Students will feel special and included when items are created just for them.

Sample Lesson

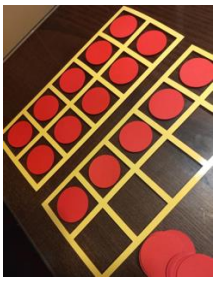
The Cricut Maker can help to prepare the room with visuals prior to student arrival. For example, using magnetic sheets, teachers can make cut outs of materials that will be needed and then placed on the white board in front of the class. They may also use magnets or vinyl to prominently display the day's objectives.



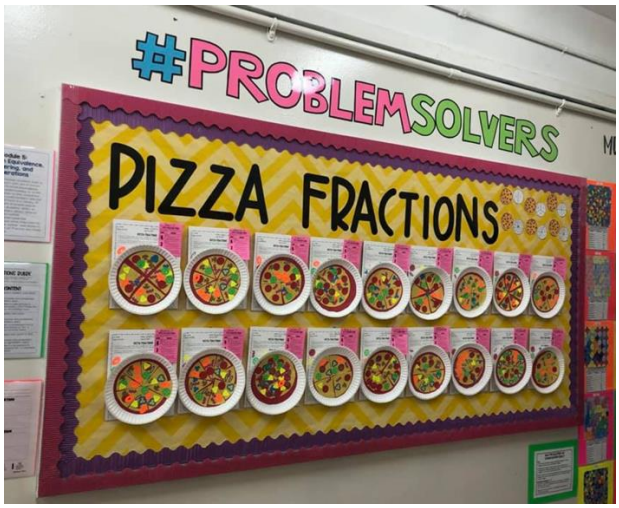
As students enter the room, they can be invited and given a sense of belonging via the decorations, inspirational quotes, and personalized details on the walls and furniture.

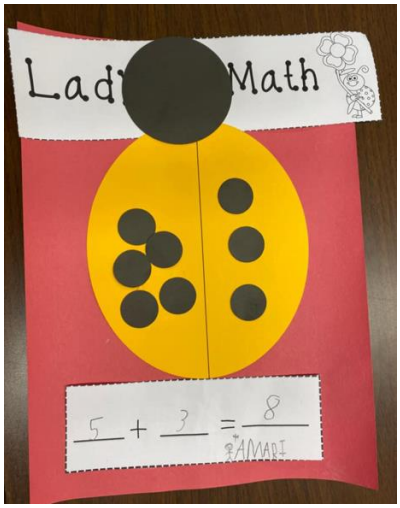


A standard lesson will be taught, notes will be written, but then students will be given an opportunity to work with hands on materials of their own to keep.



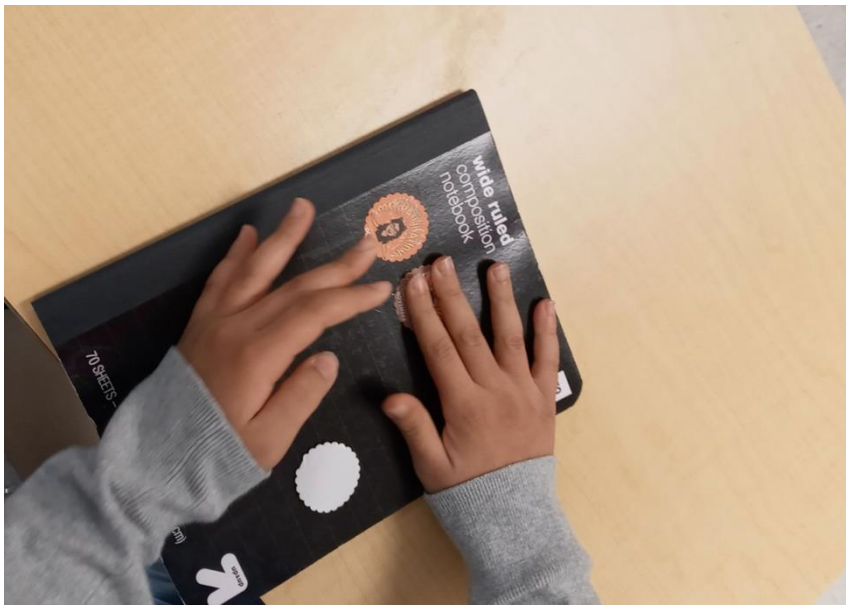
Anything can be cut out; from simple circles of all sizes to more elaborate shapes like labeled fraction tiles. Student work can then be displayed to encourage students to keep working hard and as a source of pride for a job well done.





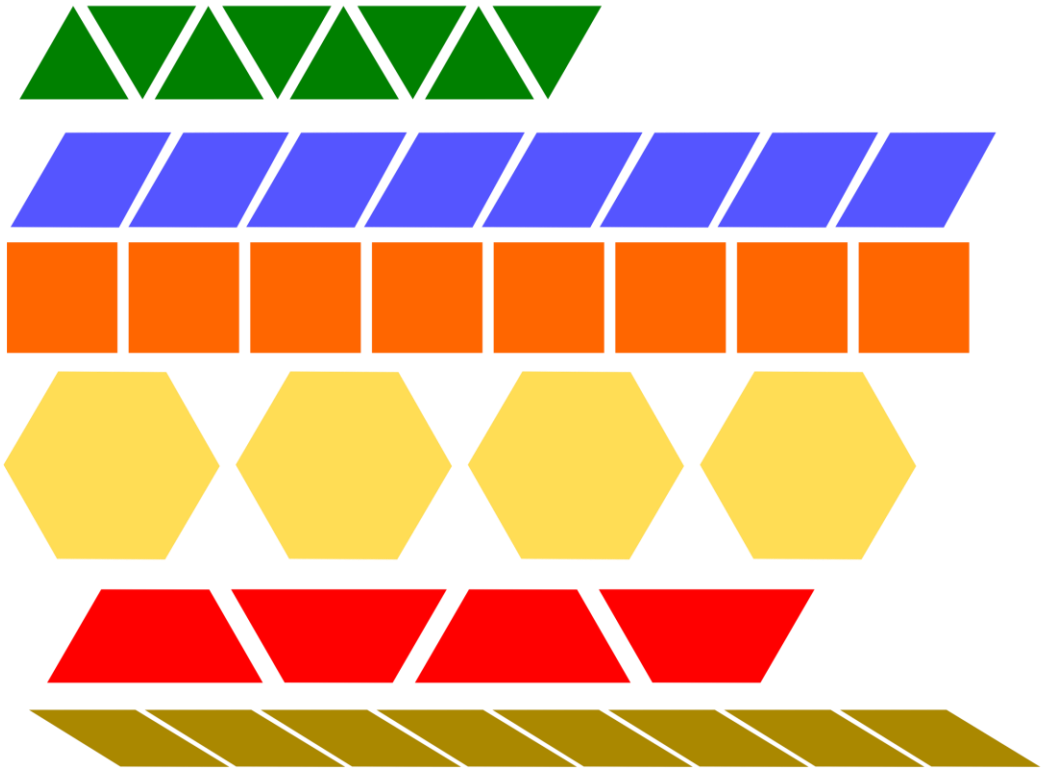
Should students require any additional materials, they have no trouble finding them because everything is labeled and organized to maximize efficiency.

Students may be rewarded for completing their work with teacher made stickers. Personalized stickers can also be used as an incentive to have students complete homework.



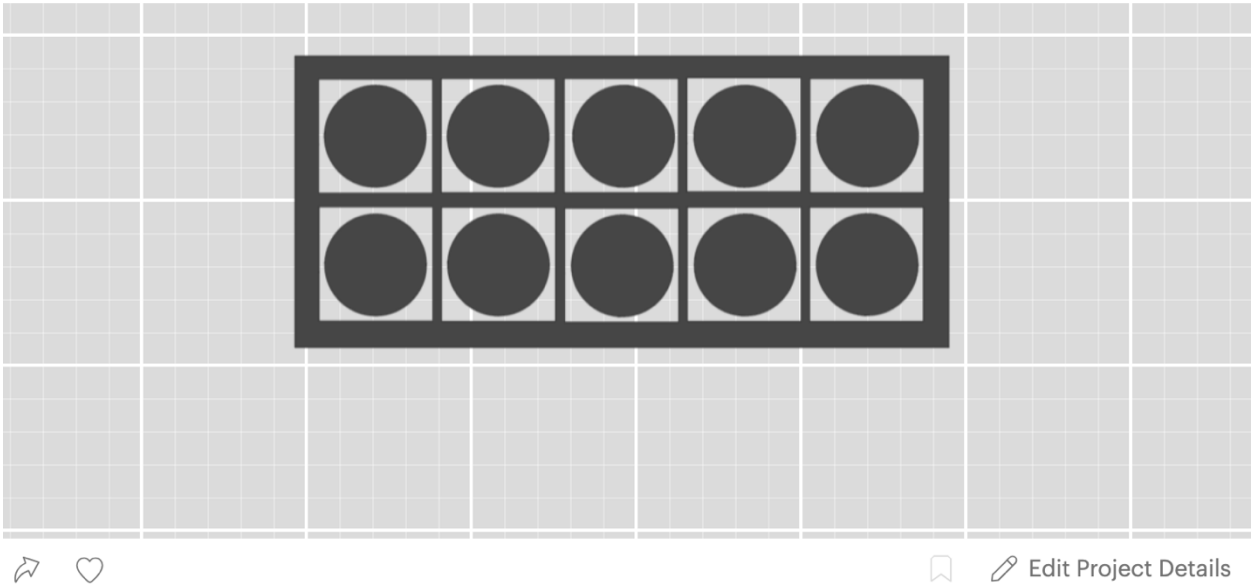
Sample Svg Shapes for Math

To use, right-click on the pattern block image below and save as an SVG. Then open your Cricut Design Space program. Start a new project and ‘Upload” the file from where you saved it. It will then appear in your Cricut design space. Happy cutting from there!



This SVG obtained from @KateStapler

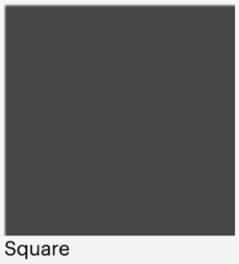
Go to this link to access my Cricut Design for a ten-frame:
https://design.cricut.com/landing/project-detail/616a26ca546a290001bb8a62



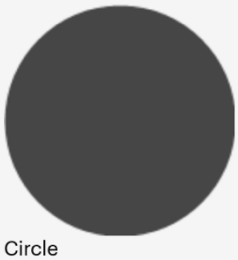
TEN FRAME TEMPLATE

Daniella Parra

Images and Fonts Used in this Project



Square
(#M369896)
Free

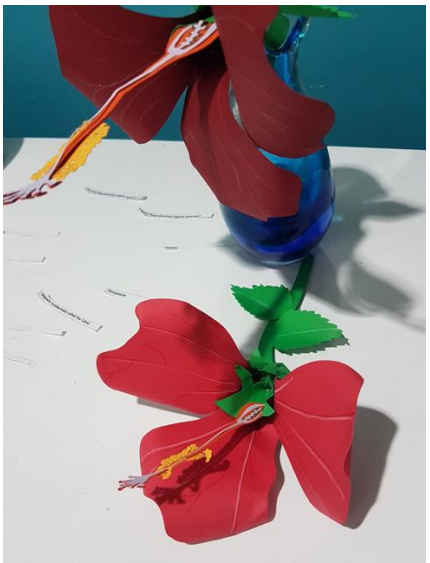


Circle
(#M369879)
Free

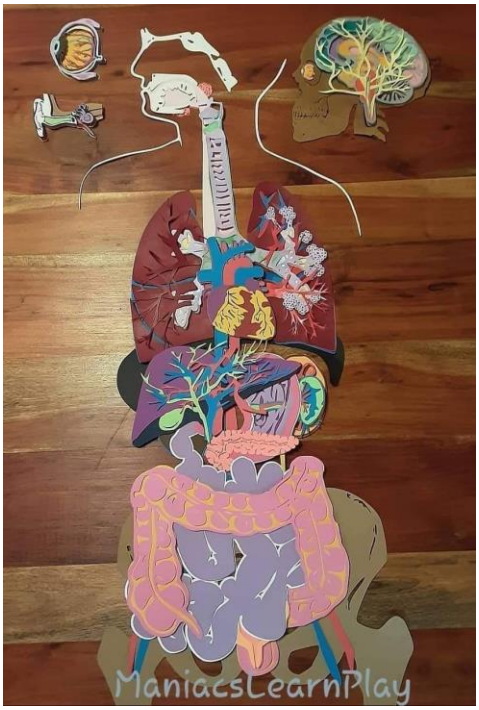
Adaptability

As mentioned before, a Cricut can be used for so many different ways in a classroom…

Science: The following are projects that were created by Ms. Henriette Rossouw:



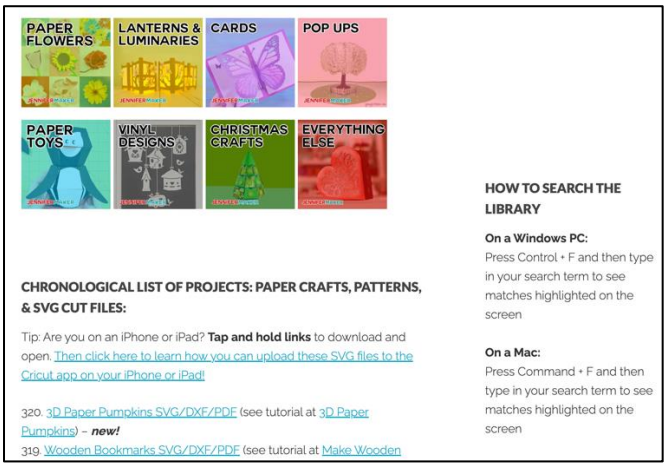
To create dissections of a hibiscus, demonstrate the life cycle of a frog, and learn about the human body.



These can all be found and purchased for use via etsy @ManiacsLearnPlay

By joining communities focused on the Cricut, you can access a plethora of free SVGs that can also be used for reading, phonics, sequencing for comprehension, t-shirts for clubs, teams, and after-school activities, as well as arts and crafts.

Some places I would recommend are: www.jennifermaker.com. By joining her mailing group, you gain access to her library full of hundreds of SVGs and you get weekly emails with new project ideas.



I would also recommend the "Cricut for Teachers" Facebook group, where there are currently 82,000 members – willing to share ideas, exchange files, and give advice on doing the most with your Cricut!

Resources

Etsy: https://www.etsy.com/shop/ManiacsLearnPlay?ref=simple-shop-header-name&listing_id=940181172

Facebook Groups (Cricut for Teachers): https://www.facebook.com/groups/2156131734617975

Jennifer Maker Youtube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAaLvz5xOyGDQ5Kun16D7zw

Jennifer Maker website: https://jennifermaker.com/resource-library/

Teacher pay teachers: https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/

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Clark, Katie. (2019). Cricut in the Classroom: Tons of Ideas for Teachers and Volunteers. Retrieved October 02, 2021, from https://www.clarkscondensed.com/cricut-in-the-classroom/

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