





50th State Flower Lei

Supplies:

- Colored construction paper (red, white, and blue)
- Drinking straws, any color
- String, enough to make a loop for a long necklace
- Scissors
- Single hole puncher
- Glue stick
- Something in the shape of a circle about 1½ inches wide to use as a pattern
- Pencil



Steps:

	Step 1: Fold a sheet of construction paper in half lengthwise.
	Step 2: Then, cut the paper in half along the fold.
	Step 3: Place the two pieces on top of each other and fold them again lengthwise. Keep both papers nested inside of each other.
	Step 4: Using your circular object, trace a circle on the end of the stacked, folded papers. Make sure the circle is about half an inch away from the end that is folded.





Step 5: Draw a little “tree trunk” shape from the circle to the edge of the papers on the folded side.



Step 6: Cut out the “mini tree” and use that piece to trace the same shape, over and over, all the way down the folded construction paper. Then, cut out the mini trees. When the trees are cut and unfolded, they will look like dumbbells.



Step 7: Each flower will require five cut-out “dumbbells,” so keep tracing and cutting using red, white, and blue construction paper.



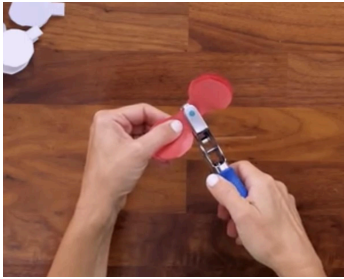
Step 8: Stack five flower petals of the same color together.



Step 9: Take a pencil, and curl the paper petal stack around it tightly.



Step 10: Unfold the petal stack and fold the dumbbells inward right where they meet the straight edge on both sides.



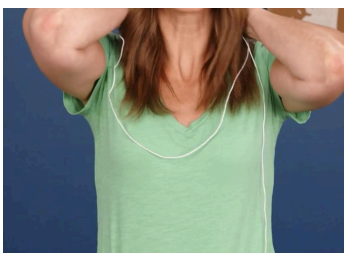
Step 11: Now, using the hole punch, make a hole in the middle of the stacks of petals.



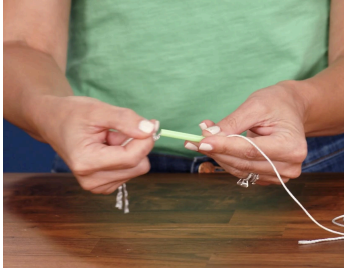
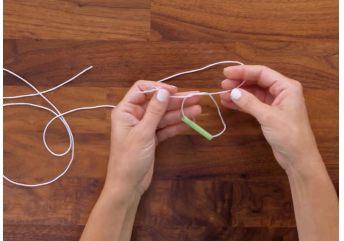



Step 12: Arrange the five dumbbell-shaped pieces in a criss-cross pattern to form a flower shape. Glue the pieces together around the punched hole in the center, making sure the holes line up. Repeat this process for all the construction paper dumbbells.



Step 13: After all flowers have been glued together, cut the straws into pieces about 1 ½ inches long. It should be possible to cut about four pieces from each straw. The straws will link the flowers on the lei.



Step 14: Measure the length of the string to ensure the lei will comfortably fit around your neck.

	<p>Step 15: String one piece of straw to the end of the string.</p>
	<p>Step 16: Make a loop around the entire straw and tie it securely so that the last piece will not slip.</p>
	<p>Step 17: After securing one end of the string, move to the other end. Slide one flower onto the string and pull it all the way down to the straw piece. Continue threading by alternating straws and flowers until most of the string is filled.</p>
	<p>Step 18: Tie the two ends together and snip off any extra string.</p>
	<p>Step 19: Wear the lei around your neck!</p>

When did Hawaii become a state, and how does a state become part of the United States?

Hawaii officially became a state on August 21, 1959. The rules for how states become a part of the Union are in our United States Constitution. Article 4, Section 3, Clause 1 says:

“...New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union, but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State... without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.”

This means that Congress decides when a territory can become a state. If a state is created using land from areas that are already states, those state governments and Congress must both agree.

Fun Facts:

- About 1,500 years ago, natives from Polynesia arrived in Hawaii by sailing the Pacific Ocean, using only the stars to guide them. Many scholars believe that Tahitians from the South Pacific arrived years later and overpowered the Polynesians who were already there. Everyone lived in kingdoms across the islands for hundreds of years. Flower leis were a part of ancient Polynesian and Tahitian cultures!
- In the year 1778, British Captain James Cook landed on the island of Kaua'i. He was the first European to get to the Hawaiian islands and named them the "Sandwich Islands" after the Earl of Sandwich in England. The "Earl of Sandwich" is a noble title for an area in Great Britain that means you're someone important.
- In 1810, a king named Kamehameha the First turned all the islands into one kingdom (this is called a monarchy). That kingdom lasted for most of the 1800s. Then, because of the Spanish-American War, Hawaii was annexed to the United States in 1898. In 1900, Hawaii became an official United States territory.
- Native Hawaiians are famous for being friendly. They say "aloha" for hello and goodbye, which shows kindness, respect, and compassion for each other.

Extension Activity

Plan a family luau! Research traditional Hawaiian decorations, food, entertainment, and activities. Get the party started by greeting each guest with a 50th state flower lei!