

## Mulch March

Duration: 30 min – 1 hour

Suggested Age: 7 – 12

### Supplies:

- Activity Sheet or scratch paper
- Camera/smart phone

### Steps:

- Watch the Village Garden Video about Mulch!
- Pretend you are a scientist, tasked with recording information about Mulch and how it protects plants!
- Go outside for a march/walk in your neighborhood and look for any examples of mulch. Remember that mulch covers plants to help keep the soil cool and that it can be made of natural materials, like falling leaves.
- Take pictures of the examples that you find on your walk! You can even pose next to them to make it more FUN! Be as silly as you want; just make sure to capture what the mulch looks like too. You will need it later. (If you post the pics be sure to tag @Mayborn Museum. We love to see you all having fun!)
- After your Mulch March, go inside and print the corresponding Observation Sheet or make your own. To make your own, all you need is scratch paper and a pencil.
- Using the pictures you took, record the examples of mulch you find on your activity sheet; this can be the beginning of your field notebook!
- To make the activity more challenging, you can also “classify” the mulch examples based on whether they are naturally occurring (falling leaves, etc.) or man-made.

## Fun Facts:

- Mulch helps to keep soil cool in the summer and warm in the winter.
- Mulch protects plants from weeds!
- Mulch helps plants to increase their water retention, making it easier for them to receive nutrients.
- Mulch is everywhere! It can exist in natural or man-made forms.
- Natural Mulch includes dead grass, falling leaves, and pine needles.
- Man-made mulch includes woodchips and straw.

## Explore Further:

- How do you think Mulch helps plants?
- Create your own garden plan, write or draw what plants you would include and what materials you would need. Would you use mulch in your garden?
- If you want to start a garden or add mulch to yours here are some tips about how to do it:  
<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/home/gardening/a20706549/how-to-mulch-your-garden/>

## Definitions:

- **Man-Made:** natural or artificial, created by people and purchased from a store.
- **Natural:** occurs in nature without people.
- **Field Notebook:** a scientific record of observations made in nature. Scientists use field notebooks to record what they see in nature.
- **Water retention:** water held in the soil underground that acts as the main source of moisture for plants.
- **Nutrients:** provide nourishment essential for growth and the maintenance of life.
- **Observation:** a record or description of someone or something.

## Record what you found!!

<u>Type of Mulch</u>	<u>Observation</u>