

## Artist Statement

I celebrate Alaska, the Great Land, through photo-screen ornaments designed using my photography of inspiring places and events. I have taken imagery sections and fixed them within a transparent screen, where light may pass through illuminating them once again as keepsake memories.

## “Illuminating My Life in the Great Land—Alaska Photo-screen Ornament” Lesson Plan

- Using your own digital photographs, create a photo-screen ornament according to the design template provided using photo editing software with room to add your own creativity.
- Photograph imagery will be used to create a choice of color or a black and white photo-screen ornament using an acrylic medium through a transfer method.
- The finished photo screen ornament includes an area for descriptive writing, such as title or a line of poetry if desired.
- The finished ornament is water resistant.
- This lesson is a basic design. I have since trimmed the sticks giving them straight or mitered edges (see photos of various ornaments below). Also, these are large in length due to project requirements. I suggest going shorter to hang on a tree.
- Experiment!



## Materials and Supplies List

Supply list includes items commonly found around the home. Suggested alternative materials are included for additional creativity. Supplier websites provided at the end.

1. **Digital photograph.** (medium to large size jpeg. (I like to use around 1920 pixels on the longest side)
2. **Color Copy Machine** (laser printer)  
or  
**Black and White Copy Machine (toner)**

### DO NOT USE INK JET PRINTER

3. **Plain laser printer paper** for color prints  
or  
**Plain copy paper** for black and white prints
4. **Liquitex Matte Medium**
5. **Creativity Street Jumbo Wooden Craft Sticks** (3/4 in. x 6 in.)
6. **Creativity Street Glitter Glue**
7. **Creatology Glitter Glue**
8. **Sheer Wired Ribbon**, 1 1/2 in., silver or gold  
or **any assorted ribbon**
9. **Paint Brush** (any kind used for acrylic painting)  
**Small container for Matte Medium**  
**Hair dryer**  
**Elmer's Wood Glue**  
**Clothespins**  
**Awl**  
**Scissors**  
**Pencil**  
**Ruler**  
**Sharpie Marker** (fine or ultra fine tip) or any fine tip marker, desired color.

### **Suggested Alternative Materials and Ideas**

Fabric scraps torn in strips in lieu of ribbon (about 16" per ornament)  
Found wood pieces in lieu of crafts sticks (approx. 6" long)  
Metal wire in lieu of craft sticks (more than 6" long for possible bending ends)  
Stamping, painting, or ink in lieu of marker for writing  
Bits of mica or other metallic flakes in lieu of glue glitter  
Added embellishments of various found objects

## Stage One - Constructing the Matrix

Time: ½ hr

- 1) Select your digital photograph
  - 2) Crop and enlarge selection of digital photo in a photo editing software, such as Adobe Photoshop. Finished size should be 5 1/4 inches wide by any desired length you choose. (5 1/4 inches wide is needed to fit the width of the wooden sticks).
  - 3) Print this edited photograph in **one of two ways**:
    - a. Print through a color copy machine (laser printer) on plain laser paper for a color print.
- Or**
- b. Print through a black and white copy machine (**one that uses toner as ink**) onto plain copy paper for a black and white print.

### **DO NOT USE IN JET PRINTER**

Either of these printed photographs on plain paper becomes your matrix for making a photo-screen. Measure the width of your photograph compared to your wooden Craft Sticks to make sure it is not too wide or too narrow—if so adjust either one to your liking (either resize in computer or trim your photograph or your sticks).

## Stage Two - Creating the Photo-screen

Time: 4 hrs

Lay the matrix flat onto the counter or desktop and follow the two-step process below:

- 1) Brush a thin and even layer of Liquitex Matte Medium *horizontally* across photo image area including about 1/2 inch around the perimeter of the image. Let dry for about 15-20 minutes or longer (dry to the touch). Keep note a running tally of the horizontal layers. Rinse brush and squeeze out excess water for a clean damp brush for next layer in step two.
- 2) Brush another thin and even layer, but now *vertically* across photo image area covering including 1/2 in around perimeter of image. Let dry for about 15-20 minutes or longer. Again, keep note a running tally of the vertical layers.

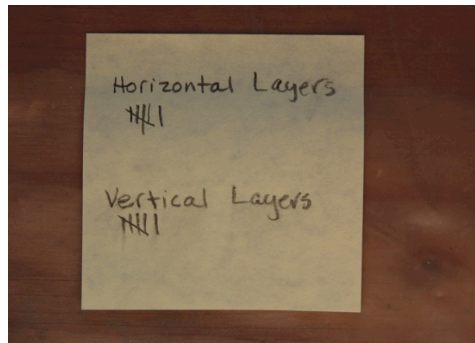


Brushing horizontal layer



Brushing vertical layer

Repeat this two-step process so that you have a total of 12 layers (6 horizontal and 6 vertical) keeping a running tally note.



Let the final layer dry overnight or thoroughly dry with hair dryer.

**Tip:** using a hair dryer between layers speeds up drying time and aids curing.

**Recommended:** This is a good time to have some other activity going on as you work the layers (prep-work for finishing: ribbon, writing, and drilling holes in wood).

### Stage Three - Revealing the Photo-screen

Time: ¼ hr

- 1) After the 12 layers of Liquitex Matte Medium are dry, wet the back of the photo-screen matrix with tepid water just enough for paper to get wet, trying to stay within the area of the image while keeping the edges fairly dry (this will keep the edges strong for handling).
- 2) Lay the photo-screen matrix onto a table or counter with the front side (photo image) faced down. Begin to gently rub the backside (which is faced up) so that the paper begins to peel away from the layers of matte medium. Keep gently rubbing until all paper is removed from the entire photo image area. You may use a wadded paper towel to help rub and wipe away the peelings. If needed, sprinkle a little water on areas that need more moisture to peel away paper.



Rubbing in a circular motion on back-side of wet matrix, peeling away paper, revealing the photo-screen.



Using paper towel to brush and wipe away peelings.



Continuing to brush and wipe until clean.



Trimming away side margins with scissors, leaving top and bottom margins for attachment.

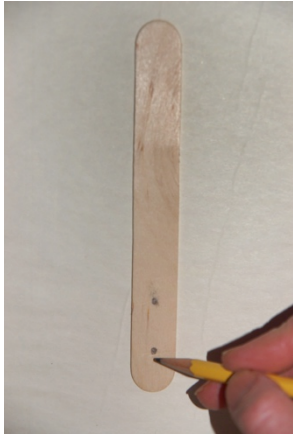
## Stage Four – Finishing: wood, ribbon, and edges Time: 1 1/2 +hrs

Consider pre-drilling wooden sticks using volunteer help. Follow demonstration

### Drilling holes in wooden sticks

- 1) Mark two dots on one end of wooden stick for drilling holes (center width ways on stick). Drill two holes using 1/4 inch drill bit for jumbo craft stick or 7/32 drill bit for small craft stick.
- 2) After drilling these two holes, use this wooden stick with two holes as a template to mark and drill two more holes in a second stick.
- 3) After drilling two holes in a second stick, use one of the wooden sticks to mark and drill two more holes in the other opposite end of the other stick.
- 4) Repeat this process for the second stick. You will now have two wooden sticks with four holes (two holes on each end of the wooden stick).
- 5) Use one of these sticks with four holes as a final template to drill all the wooden sticks needed. By this, all holes in wooden sticks will align correctly.
- 6) Make enough sticks with holes for a front and back top section of the photo-screen (two needed per photo-screen.)





Marking two dots



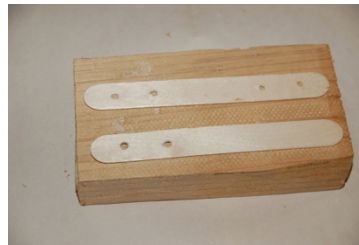
Drilling two holes of one stick



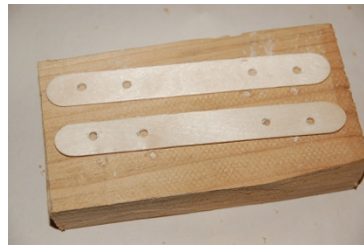
Drilling two holes through first and into second stick



Use one stick to drill holes through second stick



Use one stick to drill two holes on opposite end of second stick



Use second stick to drill holes on opposite end of first stick

### Attaching wooden sticks to photo screen

- 1) Using Elmer's Wood Glue, apply a thin line of glue onto one side of two wooden sticks with holes.
- 2) Sandwich your photo-screen between the two wooden sticks with glue, holes aligned, press together, and secure with three clothespins.
- 3) Do the same for the bottom, but use sticks without holes, press, secure with clothespins,
- 4) Wipe up glue with wet towel, and let dry at least one half hour.



Gluing top sticks to photo-screen



Gluing bottom sticks to photo-screen



Clamping three clothespins to each end

- 5) When dry, using awl, pierce the photo-screen through the holes of the wooden sticks.



Piercing photo-screen fabric with awl

### **Attaching ribbon**

- 1) Tie a knot on one end of a 16-inch ribbon and lace through the first hole, bringing the knot to meet the wooden stick. The knot will be in the front.
- 2) Lace the ribbon through the second hole, and then to form an area for hanging, bring the lace up to the center about 4 1/2 inches and back down, lacing through the third hole.
- 3) Finish lacing through the fourth hole and tie a knot to secure (you will need to pull enough lace through the third and fourth hole to tie the knot at the end and then pull back to form the area for hanging).



Making loop to knot end of ribbon



Lacing through first hole bringing knot to rest against wood.



Lacing through 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>, holes with center loose for hanging.



Tying knot at end and bringing up to rest against wood.

## Finishing edges

- 1) Lay ornament onto a piece of wax paper and apply a line of glue-glitter along both left and right edges. Let dry before moving.



Applying glue-glitter to edges



Photo-screen on wax paper

**Tip:** Using wax paper under photo-screen will aid in transporting photo-screen if needed, as well as providing a surface that glue will release from. Wipe up unwanted

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glue spots before drying.

### Title, Line of Poetry, Date

Add a line of writing with permanent fine tip marker such as a title, a line of poetry, and/or date to the bottom front of the wooden stick. Top and backs may also be used for writing.

**Tip:** Coat the surface of the wooden stick with a small dab of Matte Medium, spread evenly, let dry, and buff lightly with finger or towel. This will seal the surface and prevent marker from bleeding. Writing will have a clean and crisp edge.



Hanging color photo-screen ornament  
"Mountain "Fireweed"



Hanging black and white photo-screen  
ornament. "Spring Ski at Hatcher Pass"

## Suggested Lesson Extensions

Consider a class discussion on life within the Great Land, Alaska. Talk about places visited, things to do, and places yet to explore. What activities do students like to do in their neck of the woods? What are their interests? Do students have any historical connections to Alaska?

## **Supplemental Materials and Resources**

Alaska State Division of Parks and Recreation

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/index.htm>

Alaska Hike Search

<http://alaskahikesearch.com/parks-info/>

Alaska Geographic

<http://www.alaskageographic.org/>

### **Art Supply Stores**

Dick Blick Art Material

[www.dickblick.com](http://www.dickblick.com)

Michaels

[www.michaels.com](http://www.michaels.com)

Blaines Art Supply

<http://blainesart.com/>