The project on the next page goes along with the book *Julián is a Mermaid* written by Jessica Love.

In this book, Julián sees beautiful mermaids when he’s on the bus with his abuela. Julián LOVES mermaids! When he gets home, he finds things around his house to make a mermaid costume, including a headpiece. He is worried what his abuela will say when she sees. When Julián’s abuela sees his costume, she says to come with her and takes Julián to meet some amazing people.

For today’s activity, we are going to make beautiful mermaid headpieces just like Julián’s!

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**MUSEUM CONNECTION**

This activity was inspired by a sketch, or drawing, titled *Rainbow Mermaid Showgirl* by Miles White. Miles White was a famous costume designer that worked for The Ringling Brothers Circus and made beautiful costumes! This one is a mermaid costume, and looks so much like the mermaids in Julian in a Mermaid! It has a headpiece, a long tail, and glittering rainbow scales. This sketch would have been used to create a real costume that a performer at the circus would wear for a ‘Spec’ show, or the spectacle! The spectacle was the grand opening at the beginning of the circus show where all the animals and performers would come out in fantastical costumes with wagons while the band played to show off what was in store! This work is not currently on view, but you can find more costume designs by Miles White by clicking here.

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**STANDARDS:**

IVA.1  
IVA.2  
IVA.3  
IVF.1  
IVF.2  
IVF.3  
IVF.4  
IC.1  
IC.2  
VIII.A.1  
VIII.E.1  
VIII.E.2
ACTIVITY
MATERIALS:
CONSTRUCTION OR HEAVY PAPER, TAPE OR GLUE, SCISSORS, SOMETHING TO COLOR WITH
OPTIONAL: MIXED MEDIA
DIFFICULTY LEVEL:
SIMPLE

DIRECTIONS:

1. Cut a long strip of construction or heavy paper to form the base of the crown.
   Fit the strip around your head for a quick measurement and adjust as needed.
   You can always use two strips and tape or staple them together.

2. Decorate the strip with colorful designs.

3. Draw the outlines of leaves and flowers and have a grownup help cut them out.

4. Glue or tape your leaves and flowers to the base.

5. Attach the ends with tape or staples, and wear your crown with pride! You look amazing!
   To achieve the full mermaid look, wrap a blanket around your waist while wearing the crown!

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE WHAT YOU CREATE!

Click here to share your masterpiece on our Family Programs Facebook Group!

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Discover more activities at ringling.org