

Making Connections

Interdisciplinary Art Activities

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Paper Activities

Paper Techniques (p. 7) _____

These techniques for working with paper can be used for many of the activities in this book.

Objectives

Students will:

- learn to manipulate paper by cutting, folding, tearing, bending, and scoring
- learn to create two- and three-dimensional forms from paper
- discover the versatility of paper

Special Tips

- Special needs students may find that tearing a design may be easier than trying to manipulate a pair of scissors. Also, having you *score* the design before they try to cut or tear will make for a better result.

Making Paper (p. 8) _____

Themes

- Science: studying various aspects of the papermaking industry, the properties of different pulps
- Social studies: recycling, Oriental cultures, early American life
- Art: papermaking/fiber arts

Objectives

Students will:

- become aware of the recycling process
- explore the process of simple paper-making

Preparation

- If you wish to use the mold and deckle method, use the staple gun to staple the screen cloth to one of the 5" × 7" wooden frames. This is the *mold*. To use the second frame as a *deckle*—which helps give the paper an unusual edge—just place the empty second frame over the screened first frame before inserting the frames into the paper pulp.
- You can prepare the pulp in advance by doing steps 1 and 2 outside the classroom.

Illuminated Bookmark (p. 10) _____

Themes

- Social studies: the medieval period
- Language arts: any piece of literature being studied: specify that the bookmark should reflect the literary work.
- Art: calligraphy

Objectives

Students will:

- examine an art form from the medieval period
- experiment with the art of illumination
- create a usable piece of art

Special Tips

- Students who find the vertical concept too abstract may be more successful with the horizontal format.
- To avoid frustration when students with poor motor skills try to execute

lettering, use stencils to outline the letters for students.

- For students with special needs, crayons may be easier to manipulate than markers or pencils, but if crayons are used, don't use a heat laminator for the finished bookmark.

Hole Punch Picture (p. 11) _____

Theme

- Social studies: early American crafts and decorative arts
- Art: decorative arts

Objectives

Students will:

- learn to achieve a textured effect by punching holes
- develop visual discrimination skills

Preparation

- Each student will need a piece of cardboard, construction paper, and nails.

Special Tip

- Special needs students who can hold a pencil should have no difficulty with this activity. Closely supervise students for placement of the cardboard and the punch.

Paper Quilt Design (p. 12) _____

The use of primary colors for the background and secondary colors for the quilt pieces is to teach these color groups. Any selection of colors may be used.

Bring in an actual quilt, if possible. Point out to students the geometric shapes, if any, and the patterns used in the design.

Themes

- Social studies: early American crafts and decorative arts
- Math: geometric shapes
- Art: early American crafts/pattern

Objectives

Students will:

- learn to identify geometric shapes
- learn to develop patterns
- gain an understanding of folk art

Preparation

- Ahead of class, make enough tagboard geometric shapes for the whole class. Alternatively, provide stencils of the shapes for students to trace onto the secondary paper.
- To make a collage quilt, cut out shapes from magazines or newspapers for students to use instead of geometric shapes. You may wish to choose a theme such as flowers or familiar symbols.

Special Tips

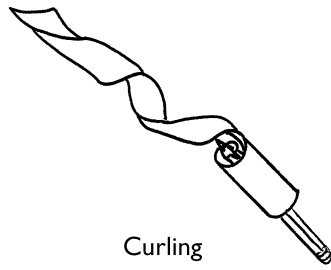
- Provide precut pieces for special needs students having a hard time cutting small pieces.
- Keep the design very simple for special needs students who have difficulty following and replicating a pattern. Try providing an outlined area for them to paste in.

Tangrams (p. 13) _____

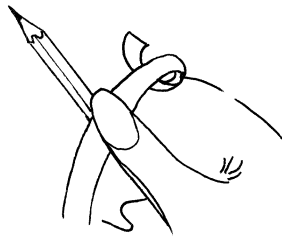
Themes

- Math: geometric shapes
- Social studies: Chinese culture, early American crafts
- Art: creative visual concepts, patterns

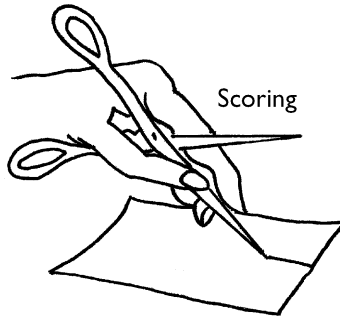
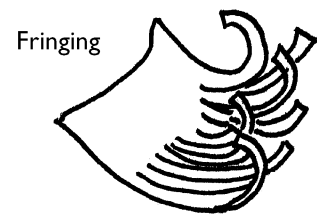
Paper Techniques



To **curl**, draw paper between thumb and an edge of a pair of scissors or a sharp-edged object. Paper can also be curled by rolling on a pencil in a straight or spiral manner.

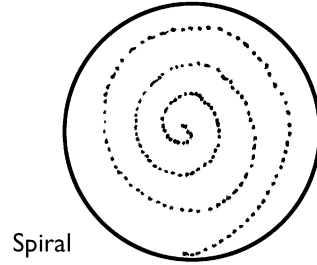


To **fringe**, make multiple cuts along the paper's edge. These can be curled for a fluffy effect.

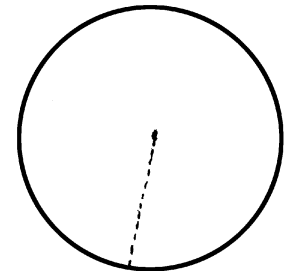


Cut to the center to make a **spiral**.

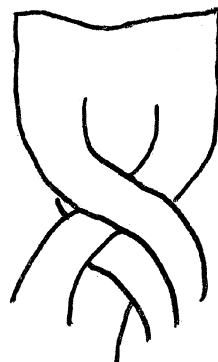
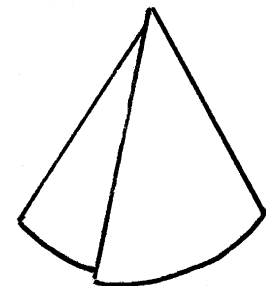
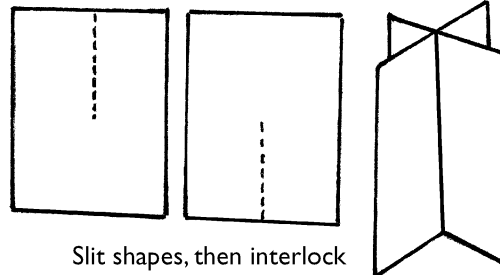
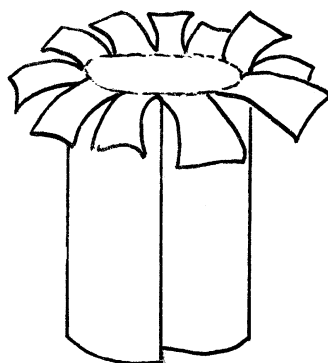
To **score**, use a dull point such as the back of a scissors blade and impress along any line that is to become a fold. This produces a crisp fold. Do not tear the paper by pressing too hard.



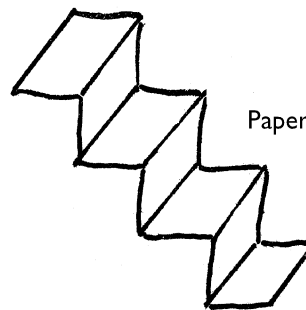
To **slash**, cut a slit in a piece of paper. If interlocking, insert the end of another piece cut in the same manner. Pull through to desired position and glue. Control the size of the slits and inserts for desired effects.



Slit circle, then fold and paste to make a cone.



Cut three strips and braid



Making Paper

Creating paper material from plant fibers is a relatively old process. It was first developed in China many centuries ago.

What would our lives be without paper? The uses for paper are too many to count. Many exhibits of colonial American life show the process of papermaking, as this was one of the important skills the colonists brought to America with them.

Materials

Washpan (about 6" deep)

Blender

Scraps of paper (newspaper or construction paper works well)

Window screen (5" × 7")

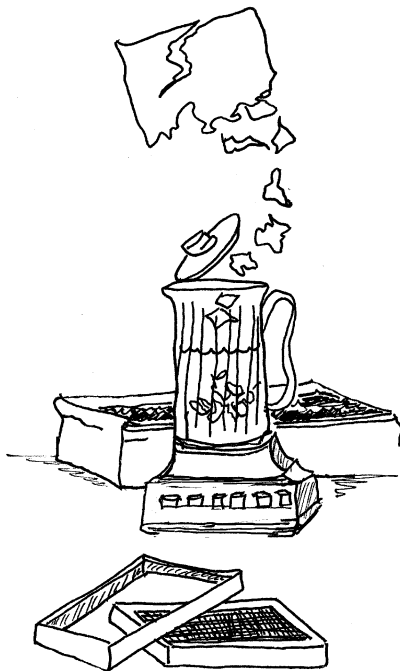
Scissors

Felt *or* wool blankets *or* old towels

Newspaper for blotting wet paper

Sponge

Optional: one or two 5" × 7" wooden frames to use as mold and deckle, staple gun



Procedure

1. Shred or cut the scraps of paper into small pieces. Let them soak in water overnight.
2. Put the paper scraps and water in a blender, about $\frac{1}{3}$ cup paper to $\frac{2}{3}$ cup water. Blend the paper and water together.
3. Place a piece of damp felt on a pile of newspapers near your work area.
4. Fill a washpan about three-quarters full with water. Pour the pulp mixture into the water in the pan. Use your hands to mix the pulp and water together.
5. Dip the screen under the surface of the water so that it is parallel to the surface. Then lift the screen carefully up out of the basin, keeping it level. The pulp in the water will collect on the surface of the screen. (If the mold and deckle method is used, hold the **mold** so

(continued)



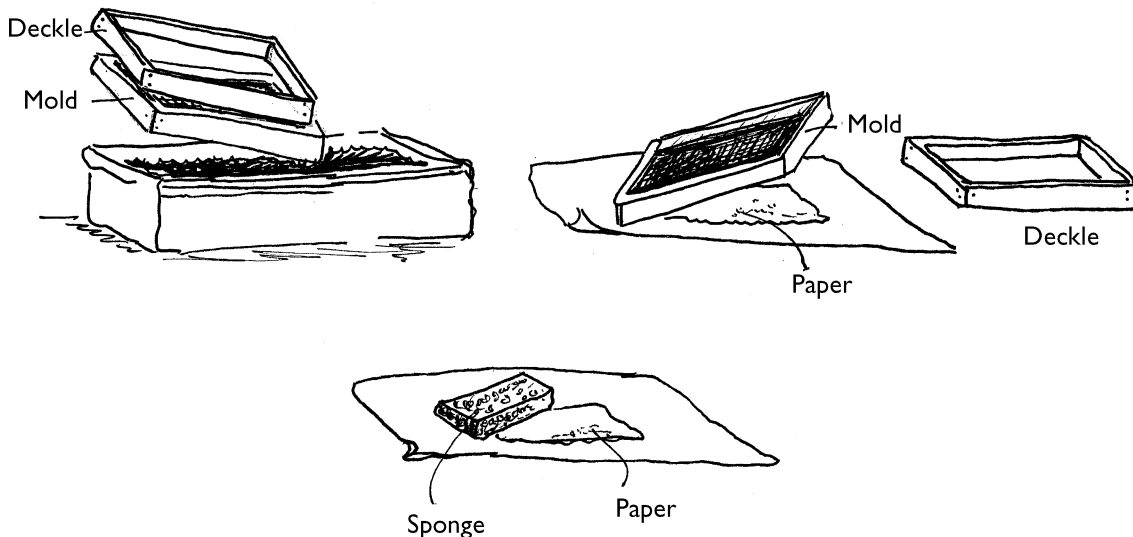
Making Paper (continued)

that the screen side faces up, then put the **deckle** over the mold. Dip the mold and deckle into the water together. Let the water drain before removing the deckle.)

6. Flip the screen onto the piece of felt so that the paper pulp is pressed against the felt. Lift the screen gently, starting at one corner. The screen will come away from the paper pulp.
7. Press the back of the handmade paper with a sponge to absorb excess water and press the fibers together.
8. Gently transfer the paper to a towel and let dry.

Additional Ideas

After you have tried the process, try experimenting with the paper pulp. Strings, straws, grasses, dried flowers, and so on can be “sandwiched” between two sheets of newly made paper before pressing. You can add glitter, onion skins, tea, or powdered paints to create a new effect. Different colors of pulp can be made into a pulp painting by arranging the wet pulp on a sheet of flat unpressed paper, then sponging the water out. Or shape and press the paper to create all sorts of effects! Experiment!



Illuminated Bookmark

The illuminated lettering seen in medieval manuscripts was created in monasteries by scribes. It was their job to copy these religious texts. The word *illuminate* means to brighten. These scribes were often talented artists. They decorated the text with beautifully designed lettering. They painted these with the richest colors of inks and paints available. Many contained crushed and powdered semiprecious gems and thin layers of gold leaf. The letters of the text glowed with meaning and beauty.

Materials

- 2" × 9" piece of drawing paper
- Scissors
- Markers, pencils
- Clear adhesive paper, cut into 4½" × 9" strips
or laminating machine
- Optional: 1½" stenciled lettering



Procedure

1. Draw the first letter of a name or a brief saying at the top of the 2" × 9" strip of paper. If you cannot draw the letter freehand, use a lettering stencil to form the basic shape.



2. Next, embellish—beautify—the letter. Use a pencil to draw scroll designs, leaves, vines, animals, etc. Complete the word or saying on the rest of the card. The words can be written in a vertical or horizontal format.
3. Use markers or colored pencils to brighten, or illuminate, the design.
4. Remove the backing from a 4½" × 9" piece of clear adhesive paper. Place the 2" × 9" paper on the adhesive paper. Fold the adhesive paper over the bookmark. Rub out any bubbles, if necessary.



Hole Punch Picture

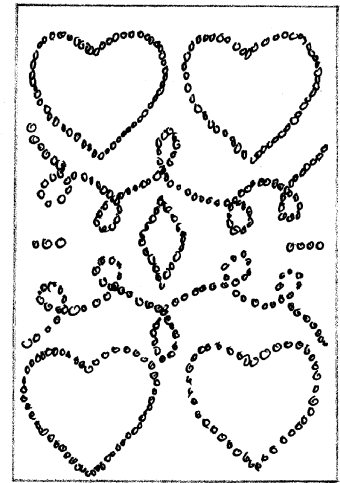
Early American cabinets are known for their punched-tin designs. For example, punched tin was used for both ventilation and decoration in antique kitchen pie safes.

Materials

Corrugated cardboard
Construction paper
Nails (assorted sizes)

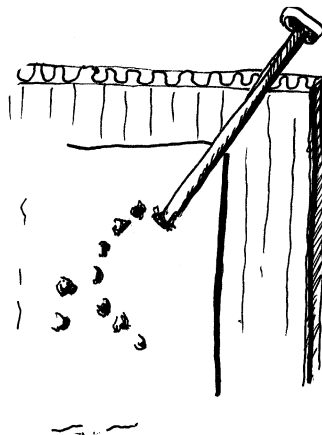
Procedure

1. Place the cardboard on a table or desk (not on your lap!).
2. Lay the construction paper over the cardboard.
3. If you wish, draw a design on the paper before punching. Use the nails to punch through the construction paper into the cardboard. Use a variety of nail sizes. Group the holes to make a pleasing design.
4. Remove the construction paper and turn it over. Hang so that the punched side (back) is facing the viewer. For the best effect, display on a window or on a bright-colored background. The punched-out places form a relief pattern, highlighting the texture of your design.



Additional Ideas

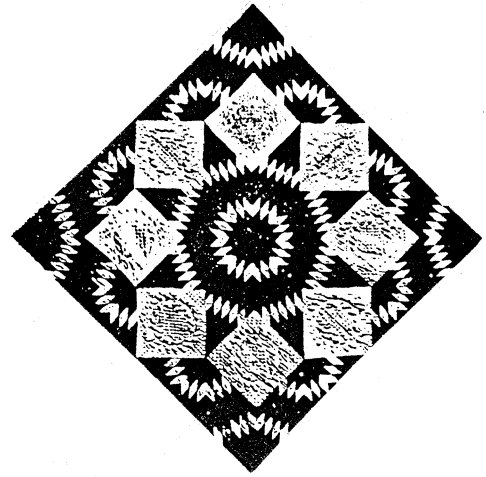
- This activity can also be done with aluminum pie plates.
- Look into other uses early Americans made of hole punch designs.



Paper Quilt Design

The art of quilting reaches back many generations. For early Americans, quilts provided both warmth and opportunities for socializing in “quilting bees,” where neighbors gathered to work on a quilt together.

Historic quilts show how innovative the early quilters were. The colorful materials came from recycled cloth scraps. Some new scraps were too small to make anything else, while other scraps came from older items too precious to throw away. Most designs feature geometric shapes—shapes that are easily repeated and balanced.



Materials

9" × 9" squares of construction paper in primary colors (red, blue, or yellow)

1½" tagboard cutouts of geometric shapes

Construction paper in secondary colors (green, violet, orange, and so on)

Pencils

Scissors

Glue

Procedure

1. Choose three geometric shapes.
2. Trace and cut out at least six to eight of these shapes in the secondary color paper.
3. Arrange the shapes in a design on the square of primary color paper.
4. Glue the shapes in place.

Additional Ideas

- Arrange everyone's design on a large bulletin board to create a class quilt.
- A border can be made for each individual square by placing a 10" × 10" piece of paper behind the square.

