

Make a Gift Book Craft

Winters Heritage House Museum, Elizabethtown, PA www.ElizabethtownHistory.org



Need a great gift for Father's Day? Make a coupon booklet, or write and illustrate a story!

To make a book you will need; Paper, scissors, construction paper or cardboard, drawing utensils (crayons, markers, or colored pencils), a hole punch, a rubber band, and a popsicle stick or bamboo skewer.

Skills; Scissors cutting, drawing. Concepts; Creation, history learning, Creativity

1. Will the book contain a story or will it be coupons for dad to redeem for car-washing-help or bear hugs? These may play a role in the size you decide on. Also decide how many pages you will need.
2. Before cutting your pages, add 1 inch additional width to make room for the binding.
3. Once all the pages are cut and ready, line them up in a nice neat stack. Punch a hole near the top of the binding edge as far in as the hole punch can reach (be careful not to punch the hole too close to binding edge that it makes a hole in the edge). Punch a second hole in line with the first at the bottom of the pages.
4. Take construction paper or cardboard and cut it slightly larger than your pages. Cut 2 pieces; one for front and back. Holding one of your pages centered against each piece of cardboard, punch holes in the cardboard to match the holes in your pages. Stack up your pages and covers. lining up the holes.
5. Now taking your rubber band, feed it through one of the punched holes. Stick the end of your popsicle stick or skewer through the loop made by the rubber band, repeat with the other end of rubber band and stick or skewer. Ta Da!
You now have a wonderful handmade creation to give as a gift!



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The History of Paper

The history of paper dates back almost 2,000 years to when inventors in China first crafted cloth sheets to record their drawings and writings. Before then, people communicated through pictures and symbols etched on stone, bones, cave walls, or clay tablets.

Paper as we know it today was first made in Lei-Yang, China by Ts'ai Lun, a Chinese court official. In all likelihood, Ts'ai mixed mulberry bark, hemp and rags with water, mashed it into pulp, pressed out the liquid, and hung the thin mat to dry in the sun. During the 8th century, Muslims (from the region that is now Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq) learned the Chinese secret of papermaking when they captured a Chinese paper mill. Later, when the Muslims invaded Europe, they brought this secret with them. The first paper mill was built in Spain, and soon, paper was being made at mills all across Europe. Over the next 800 years, paper was used for printing important books, bibles, and legal documents. England began making large supplies of paper in the late 15th century and supplied the colonies with paper for many years. Finally, in 1690, the first U.S. paper mill was built in Pennsylvania.

At first, American paper mills used the Chinese method of shredding old rags and clothes into individual fibers to make paper. As the demand for paper grew, the mills changed to using fiber from trees because wood was less expensive and more abundant than cloth.

Today, paper is made from trees mostly grown in working forests and from recovered paper. Recycling has always been a part of papermaking. When you recycle your used paper, paper mills will use it to make new newspaper, notebook paper, paper grocery bags, corrugated boxes, envelopes, magazines, cartons, and other paper products.

Besides using recovered paper and trees to make paper, paper mills may also use wood chips and sawdust left over from lumber operations (whose products are used to make houses, furniture, and other things). Today, more than 36 percent of the fiber used to make new paper products in the United States comes from recycled sources.

<https://www.paperrecycles.org/about/the-history-of-paper>

