

Learn to Quill

Introduction:

The papercraft of quilling has been around for hundreds of years. Experiment with different types of paper and household objects to make a beautiful work of art!

Think About This:

How can I make art out of materials that otherwise would have no use?

Materials:

- Lots of scrap paper, such as newspaper, magazine pages, or construction paper
- One piece of thick paper or cardboard
- Liquid glue
- A ruler or other straight edge
- A writing utensil
- Scissors
- A few tube-shaped objects, such as a toothpick, a paintbrush, or a pencil
- Optional: Markers, colored pencils, or crayons for decorating

Do Ahead of Time:

Find different types of scrap paper to experiment with. Focus on using paper that otherwise would've been thrown away or recycled, like pages from magazines, newspaper, or old homework!

Directions:

Cut and roll strips of paper to make art out of recyclable materials.

- 1 Use a writing utensil and straight edge to mark a straight line about 1/2 inch (as thick as your thumb) from the long edge of a piece of paper.
- 2 Using a pair of scissors, cut along the line to make a long strip of paper. Repeat until you have at least 50 strips of paper that are about 1/2 inch wide.
 - a. To make this step faster, carefully cut several pieces of paper at once.
- 3 Tightly wrap a cut strip of paper around one of the tube-shaped objects while holding it in place and then pull the object out of the wrapped paper. The paper should stay in a spiral shape – this is called a quill. Practice making a few quills with different kinds of paper and different tube-shaped objects.
 - a. Tip: If you add a dab of glue to end of the paper before pulling out the cylindrical object, it will make the spiral stay very small and tight. If you do not add glue, it will open up and expand.
- 4 Use one strip of paper to make a large circle by gluing one end of it to the other. Glue this to the thick piece of paper or cardboard.



Learn to Quill Continued

- 5 Fill the large circle with quills. Add a dab of glue to the bottom of the quill before pressing it to the paper.



- 6 Optional: Use other coloring supplies to decorate the thick paper or cardboard.



Take it Further

In this activity, you made spirals because that is the shape the paper naturally forms when wrapped around a tube shaped object. You can make many different shapes—experiment with other shapes by pinching and bending the edges of your quills.



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