



Make a Masterpiece

Paper Sculptures

See [this activity](#) on our YouTube channel.

What you need:

All you really need to make 3-dimensional paper sculptures is a bounty of paper. Any kind of paper can work: packing-fill paper, magazine or mail flyer pages, printer paper, construction paper, etc. You might also like to add:

- Scissors
- Tape or glue
- Cardboard or stiffer paper for a base



What you do:

Making paper sculptures challenges you to take flat pieces of paper to the next dimension. The 3rd dimension, to be exact! There is no wrong way to do this. It can be as simple as tearing and crumpling paper or as complicated as detailed paper quilling or origami. Here are a few techniques to get started:

- **Tear and crumple.** Tearing and crumpling paper is pretty self-explanatory, and it's great exercise for the muscles needed for handwriting! Crumpled paper is also fun to sculpt with. The more you crumple up a piece of paper, the more textured and pliable it will become.
- **Give it feet.** Cut a long strip of paper and fold about a half inch of each end in toward the middle to make feet that you can glue or tape to a base.
- **Folding.** Simple accordion folding is not just for making fans, accordion folds can lie down flat or stand upright. Folding can also include detailed origami or geometric forms like cubes.
- **Curling.** Similar to the science of curling ribbon, when using paper you can roll a thin strip around a cylinder and press on it to help it keep its shape when the cylinder is removed. Younger kids can wrap a 1-inch or ½-inch paper strip around a fat marker. Older kids might try thinner ¼-inch strips of paper wrapped around a pencil or a cotton swab. *Pro tip: Using a paper shredder is a quick way to cut perfectly cut thin strips of paper for curling.*



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