

Torn-Paper Collage Journals (art + literature)

An easy bookmaking lesson that works across the entire curriculum. Students make books to use as journals or scrapbooks and fill with personal stories or poetry, sketches or photos. Polymer Gloss Medium replaces glue for quick, clean collage work. It dries crystal clear, adding strength and sheen to the book cover. A perfect project for using up scraps!

Grade Levels 5-12

Preparation

1. Cut Railroad Board. To make 7" x 11" (page size) journals, cut in fourths (A). To make 7" x 5-1/2" journals, cut in eighths (B).
2. Cut drawing paper for pages, using the same page size or slightly smaller.

Process

1. Fold Railroad Board pieces in half. Tear pieces of decorative, construction or tissue papers to create collage. Apply Polymer Medium to the back of each torn piece as if applying glue, then place on cover. Brush more Polymer Medium over the top of each torn piece of paper, making sure edges are brushed down. Layering and overlapping pieces adds interest. Include found objects (photos, text, flowers, fabric scraps, etc.), applying them with Polymer Medium in the same manner. Cover entire surface and wrap paper over the edges.



(A)



(B)

Materials

Railroad Board, 6-ply, (13105-0629), 25-sheet package of assorted colors, 22" x 28" sheets - Cut in fourths for 11" x 14" pieces, or eighths for 5.5" x 14" pieces

Blickrylic Polymer Gloss Medium (00711-1027), quart, distribute across classroom

Blick Scholastic Golden Taklon, size 1/2" Flat (05859-4012), need one per student

Decorative Papers, for collage, recommend:

Roylco® Decorative Papers (11262-)

Blick Construction Paper (11409-)

Blick Art Tissue (11308-)

Luster Metallic Tissue (11306-9106)

Blick White Sulphite Drawing Paper (10209-1007), 100-sheet package 12" x 18", cut to journal-size sheets

Optional

Found materials: leaves, flowers, fabric scraps, photos, magazines, etc.

Binding Materials, recommend:

Raffia (60908-1375)

Twine (61512-1009)

Caron® 4-Ply Yarn (65226-)

Ribbon (61498-1009)

Process, continued

2. Once cover is complete, apply one final coat of Polymer Medium and allow one hour to dry.
3. Fold Drawing Paper in half to make pages, assemble inside the cover to make a book.
4. Use a simple binding process to secure the pages:
 - a) **Simple Tie Binding** - Tie string, raffia, yarn, cord or ribbon as tightly as possible at the fold of the book. Trim excess.
 - b) **Simple Stitch Binding** - With a [Paper Punch](#) (58904-1005), hammer and nail or awl (12842-1000), create holes at even intervals along the folded edge of the journal cover. Stitch together with [Embroidery Floss](#) (63100-1009), ribbon, cord, etc.
 - c) **Simple Glue Binding** - Run a thin line of [Sobo® Glue](#) (23820-1004) along the inner fold of the journal cover. Place the folded page into the glue. Repeat for remaining pages and allow to dry before closing the journal.

Options

- For social studies, look for papers that come from particular cultures. For example: Unryu and Ogura papers from Japan (11223- and 12206-), Banana or Mango paper from Thailand (11224- and 11270-), Papyrus paper from Egypt (11239-), etc.
- Cut out window in cover for picture-frame book, place photo of child on first page so that it appears in window

National Standards

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes

- **K-4** Students use different media, techniques and processes to communicate ideas, experiences and stories
- **5-8** Students select media, techniques and processes; analyze what makes them effective or not effective in communicating ideas; and reflect upon the effectiveness of their choices

Content Standard #6 — Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines

- **K-4** Students understand and use similarities and differences between characteristics of the visual arts and other arts disciplines
- **5-8** Students describe ways in which the principles and subject matter of other disciplines taught in the school are interrelated with the visual arts