

## Paper Bag Pocket Journal

This all-in-one journal and pocket-booklet is ready for on-the-go sketching, writing and collecting samples.

Follow our simple, easy-to-follow instructions to turn common kraft paper lunch bags into a book with useful storage pockets. It's an economical way for an entire class to make journals, but adults can find many uses for it as well.

As a **nature journal**, there are kraft pages for note-taking and identification, plus pockets to press flowers and leaf samples collected in the field.

Capture the beauty of seasonal plants by filling a **garden journal** with sketches, then store the seeds in envelopes inside the pockets so that they can be replanted and enjoyed annually.

When used as a **travel journal** the pages can record drawings and experiences, while the pockets provide a space to store momentos and souvenirs. Or, as a take-along **sketchbook**, the pockets can hold pencils and extra paper.

The pages are assembled in an "infinity" design — there's no front and no back cover. Each page flips continuously around and can be positioned to stand upright in a radiating circle of pages with a star-shaped space in the center. Once created, journals can easily be expanded later by adding more pages.

### GRADES 1-8

Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.

### Preparation

1. Cut chipboard into 4" x 7" pieces using shears or a pap trimmer. Each 22" x 28" sheet of chipboard will produce twenty pieces. Plan on at least four pieces per book.

### Process

1. Prepare paper bags by bending and creasing the bottom so that the side view resembles a "Y.", see (A). Run a pencil on its side to create a hard crease. Repeat for a minimum of four bags per book.
2. Apply glue to just the right side of the "Y" on one bag, see (B). Position another bag, so that the left side of its "Y" can be pressed firmly into the glue (C). Hold in place with paper clips until the glue is dry.



*Note: Kraft color paper bag option, shown with example, above, is no longer available.*

### Materials (required)

**Spectra Party Bags**, pkg of 50, white paper (12857-1040); share one between eight to ten students

**Elmer's Extra Strength Glue Sticks**, Pkg of 2, .21 oz (23952-1001); share one between two students

**All-Purpose Chipboard**, 22" x 28", 14-ply (13115-2222); share one sheet between three to four students

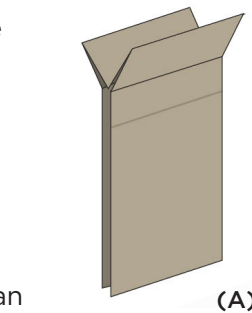
**Creativity Street Elastic Cord**, White or black, 1.2 mm x 25 ft, (61594-); share one spool across classroom

**Essentials by Leisure Arts Alphabet Beads**, 7 mm, pkg of 250 (80942-1016)

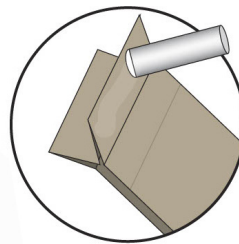
### Optional Materials

**Crayola Color Sticks**, Set of 12, (22083-1009)

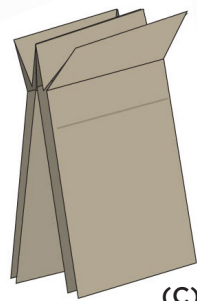
**Maped Color'Peps Colored Pencils**, School pack of 240 (22467-2409)



(A)



(B)



(C)



### Ready to order materials?

Go to [www.DickBlick.com/lesson-plans/paper-bag-pocket-journal](http://www.DickBlick.com/lesson-plans/paper-bag-pocket-journal) to access a product bundle for your convenience.



### Process, continued

3. Repeat step 2 until all bags are joined together.
4. Insert chipboard into each bag for support..
5. A creative tie or means of closure can be designed to hold the pages in place while transporting
6. To make a jewelry-like elastic band that may be used regardless of the page position, cut a piece of elastic cord to a length that fits around the book and allows some extra to knot it (about 11" for a four page book). Create a knot in one end and string beads to fill the cord before tying off approximately 1" from the other end. Alphabet beads may be used to spell out names to identify the book's owner or its function.
7. The sides of the paper bags may be used for writing, drawing, or collage materials. Use dry media, such as markers, pens, pencils, chalk, etc. Kraft paper bags are not suited to paints. Some markers may bleed through to the cardboard insert.

The insides of the bag can be used to store and collect items. Press natural materials such as leaves, plants, and flowers by placing them between two pieces of chipboard or paper towels. As moisture leaves the specimen, it can soak into the porous materials so it doesn't stain the bag.

### National Core Arts Standards - Visual Arts

#### Creating

**Anchor Standard 1:** Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

**Anchor Standard 2:** Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

#### Connecting

**Anchor Standard 10:** Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.



**Step 1:** Fold bottom of paper bag and glue together on one side of fold.



**Step 2:** Repeat with multiple bags and place a piece of chipboard in each bag to add strength.



**Step 3:** Fill pages with drawings, writing, notes or collage materials. Use pockets formed by bags for collecting or storing items.

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