

# Canvas Folding Screen

(art + social studies)

In Asian cultures, a paper screen dominates prominent areas in the home of well-to-do families. They are often painted with illustrations of historic events, religious and mythological images and scenes from everyday life. Multi-paneled screens come in many sizes and shapes and involve cultural research. Screens made in more abstract designs have become popular in the last twenty to thirty years. The screens are hung on walls and displayed free-standing on the floor. Materials traditionally used are handmade papers or fabrics of silk with painted or printed designs.

## Grade Levels 5-12

*Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.*



*Screen made with 3 hinged canvas and paper collage*

## Materials

**Blick Studio Traditional Canvas** 6" x 12" (07135-2001), need at least two per student

**Metal Hinges**, 1-1/2", available at hardware stores

### Materials for Paper Collage Screen:

Assorted Papers, recommend:

- **Riverside Art Street Marbled Construction Paper**, (11418-1023) 50-sheet pkg
- **Thai Unryu Paper**, assorted colors (11223- )
- **Thai Mango Paper**, assorted colors (11270- )

- **Thai Banana Paper**, assorted colors (11224- )

- **One Pound Plus** box of assorted decorative papers (11719-1000)

**Black Ink™ Decorative Paper Packs** (12601-)

**Blickrylic Gloss Medium**, gallon (00623-1039)

**Blick Economy White Bristle Gesso Brush**, 1-1/2" (05160-5112)

**Fiskars® for Kids Non-Stick Scissors** (57054-1000), need one per student

**Blick Plastic Ruler** (55403-1012)

## Materials for Painted Screen

**Sargent® Metallic Acrylic**, gold (00730-9015), share two 8-oz bottles across classroom

**Blick Artist's Acrylics** (00624-), assorted colors to share across classroom

**Blick Scholastic Wonder White Brushes** (05377-) assorted sizes and shapes to share across classroom



*Painted screen made with 2 hinged canvas*

## Preparation

1. Prepare preliminary sketches. When planning the design, keep in mind that it needs to work across multiple panels and will be viewed from the back as well as the front.

## Process for Paper Collage Screen

1. Draw the design in pencil onto the panels as a guide. Because the torn paper is never perfect, the design may change at times and will need to be adjusted with the torn paper. The paper is torn as needed, not ahead of time.
2. The polymer medium is used as an adhesive because it never dries brittle or hard so it is valuable on a variety of surfaces. Apply the polymer on the areas of canvas used with the torn paper. Start applying the torn paper on the front of the canvas and work it around the sides to the back of the wrapped canvas. Continue until the three canvases are covered. Check that the design goes from one panel to the next in a continuous pattern. Add detail to the design with more paper and polymer layers. If the paper edges do not adhere, add a little polymer underneath the loose areas.
3. When the panels are complete, brush a layer of the polymer over the complete paper design. Do not "over-brush" the polymer surface, which could cause it to turn cloudy or milky.

## Process for Painted Screen

1. Lightly transfer sketches to the canvas with a graphite pencil.
2. Paint the design, keeping in mind that it will be viewed across multiple panels on the front and will also be viewed from the back. Paint the edges and allow to dry.
3. One technique that was used for preparing screens for royalty incorporated the use of gold leaf. Use gold acrylic paint for a rich, lustrous screen.

## Hinge the Screen

1. Make a folding screen from the prepared canvases by adding hinges. On the inside edge (between the canvas), measure 3" from the top of and bottom. Place the hinge on the dot, aligning the center hole. Tap gently with a hammer to penetrate the canvas and set the screw into the wood, then use a screwdriver or hand drill to insert completely. Repeat to attach second hinge.

## Options

- Use fabric for collage instead of paper.
- Attach screw eyes and wire to display on a wall.
- For a more economical alternative, cut panels out of [Double-Thick Chipboard](#) (13115-2236) and connect with [Linen Hinging Tape](#) (17310-1030)

## National standards:

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

- **5-8** Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques and processes to enhance communication of their experience and ideas.
- **9-12** Students conceive and create works of visual art that demonstrate an understanding of how the communication of their ideas relates to the media, techniques and processes they use.

**Content Standard #2** — Using knowledge of structures and functions

- **5-8** Students employ organizational structures and analyze what makes them effective or not effective in the communication of ideas
- **9-12** Students conceive and create works of visual art that demonstrate an understanding of how the communication of their ideas relates to the media, techniques and processes they use.

**Content Standard #3** — Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas

- **5-8** Students integrate visual, spatial and temporal concepts with content to communicate intended meaning in their artworks.
- **9-12** Students reflect on how artworks differ visually, spatially, temporally and functionally and describe how these are related to history and culture.

**Content Standard #4** — Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures

- **5-8** Students describe and place a variety of art objects in historical and cultural contexts.
- **9-12** Students describe the function and explore the meaning of specific art objects within varied cultures, times and places.

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