# BLICK<sup>®</sup> art materials 800-447-8192 DickBlick.com

Copyright © 2010, 2020 Dick Blick Art Materials All rights reserved

## **Pyramid Book**

Construct a pyramid that opens to reveal personal "treasure." (art + history; art + math)

Pyramids created by Egyptians and other world cultures have incited curiosity, mystery, and inspiration since ancient times. Theories abound about what they represent, what powers they possess, and how they were built. Egyptians chose the shape to represent their belief that the dead emerged from the earth and ascended toward the sky. Some think the shape describes the sun's rays reaching to earth, others, the flow of energy from the universe.

Geometrically, a pyramid connects a polygon to an apex. Although it can take many forms, the most commonly recognized pyramid shape has a square base and triangles with congruent sides. The Great Pyramid of Giza, also known as the Pyramid of Cheops, has been called the most mathematically perfect structure in the world.

This simple bookmaking process creates a pyramid that can be a journal for hiding secrets, a container for holding "treasure," or a model of an actual pyramid. Students may be challenged to learn the inner parts of a pyramid and create hieroglyphic messages.

**GRADES 3-12** Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.

## Preparation

 Cut triangles and squares from chipboard or matboard. Shapes can be any size but must be consistent. For example, if the square has 5" sides, the triangles must have 5" sides as well. Each student will need four triangles and one square. Cutting is easiest with a paper cutter, but sturdy scissors or a craft knife may be used.

Note: 36 triangles or 20 squares with 5" sides can be cut from one piece of chipboard or matboard. View cutting guide on page 3.

## Process

- 1. Starting with the board pieces, assemble the outside of the pyramid book. Hinge the triangles to the square base on what will be the inside of the book using tape.
- 2. Using the assembled boards as a template, trace the shape onto paper to make pages (it will look like a four-point star). Cut inside the traced lines. Pages should be slightly smaller than the outside of the book.
- 3. To add more pages, repeat Step 2. This time, use the first set of pages as a template and make the second set of pages smaller by cutting inside the traced lines. Repeat as many times as desired.

## Materials (required)

Board choice, recommend:

All-Purpose Chipboard, single thickness, 22" x 28" (13115-2222); one per four students

Crescent No. 34 Double-Sided Pebble Board, White/Cream, 22" x 28" (17206-1392); one per four students

Tape choice, recommend:

Kraft Paper Tape, 2" x 600 ft roll (24118-1002); share one across class

3M Scotch Book Tape, 1-1/2" x 15 yd roll, (23021-1015); share one across class

Blick White Sulphite Drawing Paper, 12" x 18", 80 lb, 100-sheet package (10209-1079); minimum one sheet per student

Uhu Glue Stick, clear .75 oz (23822-0030); share one between two students

## **Optional Materials**

Crayola Air-Dry Clay, 2-1/2 lb bucket (33272- 1125) Sargent Art Liquid Metal Acrylics, assorted colors (00730-) Velcro Sticky Back Fasteners, clear, thin 3/4" x 15 ft (57319-1021)



#### Process

- Crease the pages (the base of the triangles) up to form walls and glue the square area to the square board on the cover piece.
- 5. Create a means of closure. Options:
  - a. Make a clay closure. Roll and cut a disk approximately 3"dia x 1/4" thick. In the center, cut a 1" square. Use modeling tools or texture stamps to decorate, allow to dry, and paint with metallic acrylic color to resemble a coin. Place over the apex of the book the weight will hold the pages closed.
  - b. Punch holes in the triangles near the apex and use a ribbon or cord to tie closed.
  - c. Position Velcro strips along the sides of the triangles, exposing just enough hook-and-loop to connect with one another.
  - 6. Embellish the book as desired. Suggestions:
  - a. Use the remaining clay to make "treasures" to place inside a sarcophagus, death mask, pottery, etc.
  - b. Using paint or drawing materials, create designs, writing, and artwork inside and outside the pyramid. Why not design your own hieroglyphics?
  - c. Sponge-paint a "stone" texture on the walls.

#### Options

Instead of constructing a book, create an artful box for gift giving.



*Step 1: Cut four triangles and one square; tape them together for the cover.* 



*Step 2: Trace the cover to create pages and glue them together.* 



Step 3: Create a means of closure and embellish the book as desired.





Cutting guide for chipboard triangles, refer to preparation step 1 on page 1.

## **National Core Arts Standards - Visual Arts**

#### **Creating**

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

## Connecting

Anchor Standard 11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.