

COOKING CLUB: CHOPPED AT HOME

AGES

Tweens 9–12

Teens 13–18

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Adapt *Chopped*, the beloved Food Network show, for a passive library program! Participants pick up a mystery box, use it to create a dish, and submit photos and a recipe that will be displayed at the library. Consider partnering with a nutritionist or Master Food volunteers from your local extension office to judge submissions and choose champions. Create prize baskets with aprons, rolling pins, whisks, cookie/cake mixes, etc. This is a great way to show off your library's cooking and baking collections while inviting tweens, teens, or families to show off their cooking skills. Suggested runtime: Ongoing for 2–3 weeks

Theme ideas:

- Recipes could be family favorites or related to a theme (e.g., cakes, no-bake, InstaPot, etc.).
- Invite local farmers to help run a farm-to-table program! These are popular for all ages; it is cool to know where your food comes from.
- Run a family program in which children and adults make different versions of a similar recipe (one simple, one more complex).
- After participants submit their recipes, compile submissions into a library cookbook for patrons to take home.
- For a community component, run in tandem with a food drive.
- Provide take-home spice kits for a specific recipe or information about different spices from around the world. Tie these with information about summer cooking programs.



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials for mystery boxes:

- Blank recipe cards
- Instructions (with deadline)

ADAPTATION:

If running virtually, choose a date/time to run the program and ask participants to gather their own supplies the week before. Send out video conferencing links, and let participants present their dishes in real time!

TIP:

For another cooking program idea, see Recipes for a Region on page 119.

ADAPTATION:

For accessibility, be sure to provide recipes in multiple formats depending on your audience's needs: Audio, step-by-step visuals with alt text, electronic formats compatible with screen readers, large print, etc.

TIP:

To address food scarcity or affordability in your area, secure food supplies for everyone.

TIP:

Remember to make a cookbook display!

PASSIVE | DECORATION/DISPLAY | STEM

- Boxes (or bags) big enough to hold ingredients
- Ingredients: One spice, one canned good, one boxed/dried good.
Examples: Allspice, canned pumpkin, and pretzels; turmeric, canned peaches, graham crackers.

Preparation: Decide if the mystery boxes will all have the same ingredients or different ones. Purchase or acquire donated items and assemble the mystery boxes. Be sure to ask participants if they have any food allergies or dietary restrictions. Write and print copies of the instructions (be sure to include the deadline!). Invite volunteer(s) to assist with judging.

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

You will need a space to display recipes and photos.

RESOURCES

Web

“America’s Test Kitchen Kids” from America’s Test Kitchen: <https://www.americastestkitchen.com/kids>

Chopped Junior video extras from Food Network: <https://bit.ly/39mTvoU>

“Kids in the Kitchen” from the U.S. Department of Agriculture: <https://bit.ly/3zBhLOA>

“How to Play Chopped at Home” from Taste Wise Kids: <https://bit.ly/3Hq5jTz>
Program example from Tredyffrin Township Libraries: <https://bit.ly/3OgiWaa>

Cookbooks

The Complete Cookbook for Young Scientists (2021) by America’s Test Kitchen (middle grade)

Super Easy Teen Cookbook (2020) by Christina Hitchcock (YA)

The Teen Kitchen: Recipes We Love to Cook (2019) by Emily Allen and Lyla Allen (YA)

TIP:

See Canva for an editable recipe card created by Kristen Stockdale: <https://bit.ly/3Qlbuwi>

TIP:

For middle grade cookbooks, see Virtual Snack Attack: Friendship Mix on page 23.

WORDS THAT CONNECT

AGES

Tweens 9–12

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Where do words come from? Create a wall display about the origin of different words (etymology) to let patrons visualize similar words in different languages. To make a language tree, underline words' roots and use arrows to show the links between languages. Make sure to post the definition of the English word to make clear which definition you are going for. This can be done with many words, but two are provided as examples (see Printables). You can also provide quizzes or make cards for a passive matching game, or turn finding the root words into a library-wide scavenger hunt. Suggested runtime: 30 minutes.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials for the display:

- Printer and colored paper
- Scissors and tape
- Dictionaries for various languages
- Worksheets and take-home games (optional)

Some facts:

- English is primarily a Germanic language, but it also includes a good number of Latin words through Old French.
- The closest languages to English are Frisian and Scottish.
- Frisian is spoken in the Netherlands and northern Germany.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly.

RESOURCES

Web

Online game from *Fun Brain* (grades 4–8): <https://bit.ly/3OiAByi>

Etymology quizzes and games on *Sporcle*: <https://bit.ly/3tzJoDQ>

Vocabulary games on *Free Rice*: <https://bit.ly/3NUHA0v>

Etymology worksheets on *Twinkle* (account required): <https://bit.ly/3OcFQ2j>

“How to Teach Latin Root Words with a Word Tree” [1 min] from All About Learning Press on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3NR1ERq>

Germanic language tree from *Brittanica*: <https://bit.ly/3mJv4F8>

Picture Book Nonfiction for Children 5+

ICEBREAKER:

Play a game of telephone using words from Spanish (or another language). This is a fun way for children to practice language and communication skills.

ADAPTATION:

The display could also be about the same word in different languages without analyzing etymology. Set out dictionaries and let patrons look up the same word in a variety of languages to make their own connections.

ADAPTATION:

Invite a linguist to talk about variations between languages and word origins. This program could be as basic or in-depth as required to suit audience age and interest.

ADAPTATION:

Highlight only the languages spoken in your community. Invite one speaker from each; children learn how to say a phrase in each of the languages.

GAME/ACTIVITY | PASSIVE | DECORATION/DISPLAY

Literally: Amazing Words and Where They Come From (2020) by Patrick Skipworth

Noah Webster's Fighting Words (2017) by Tracy Maurer

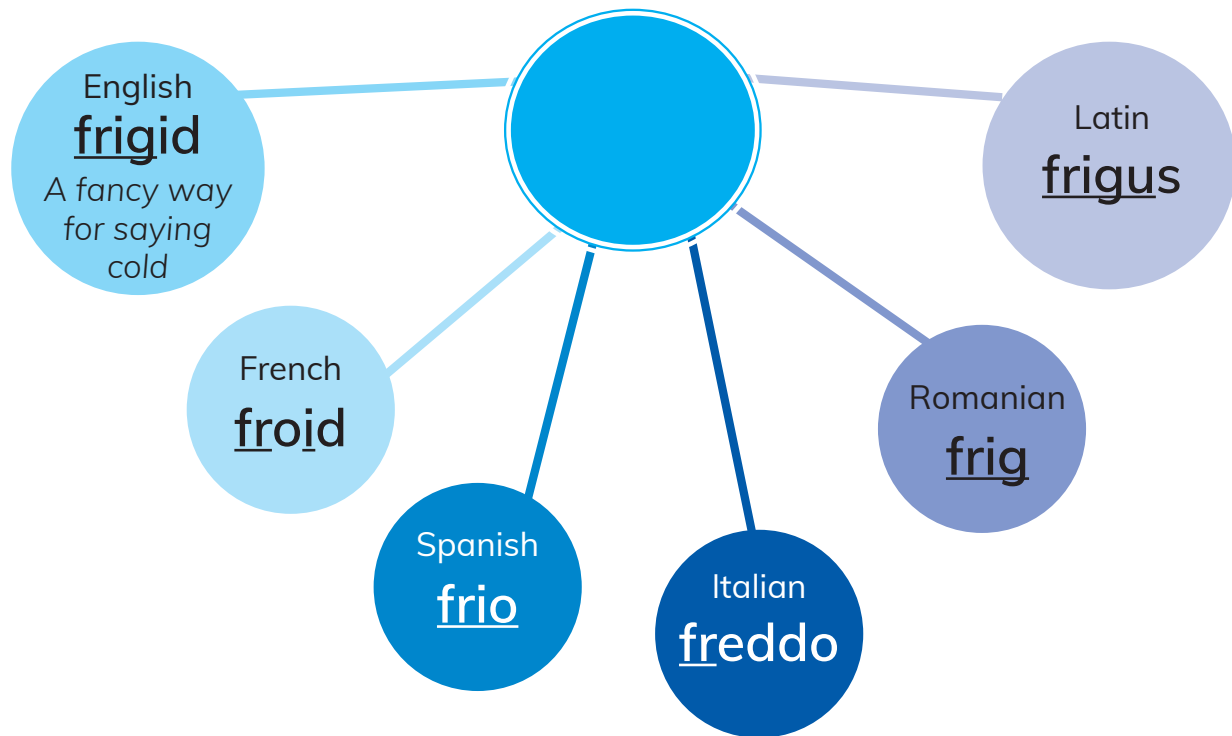
Once Upon a Word: A Word-Origin Dictionary for Kids: Building Vocabulary Through Etymology, Definitions and Stories (2020) by Jess Zafarris

What a Wonderful Word (2018) by Nicola Edwards

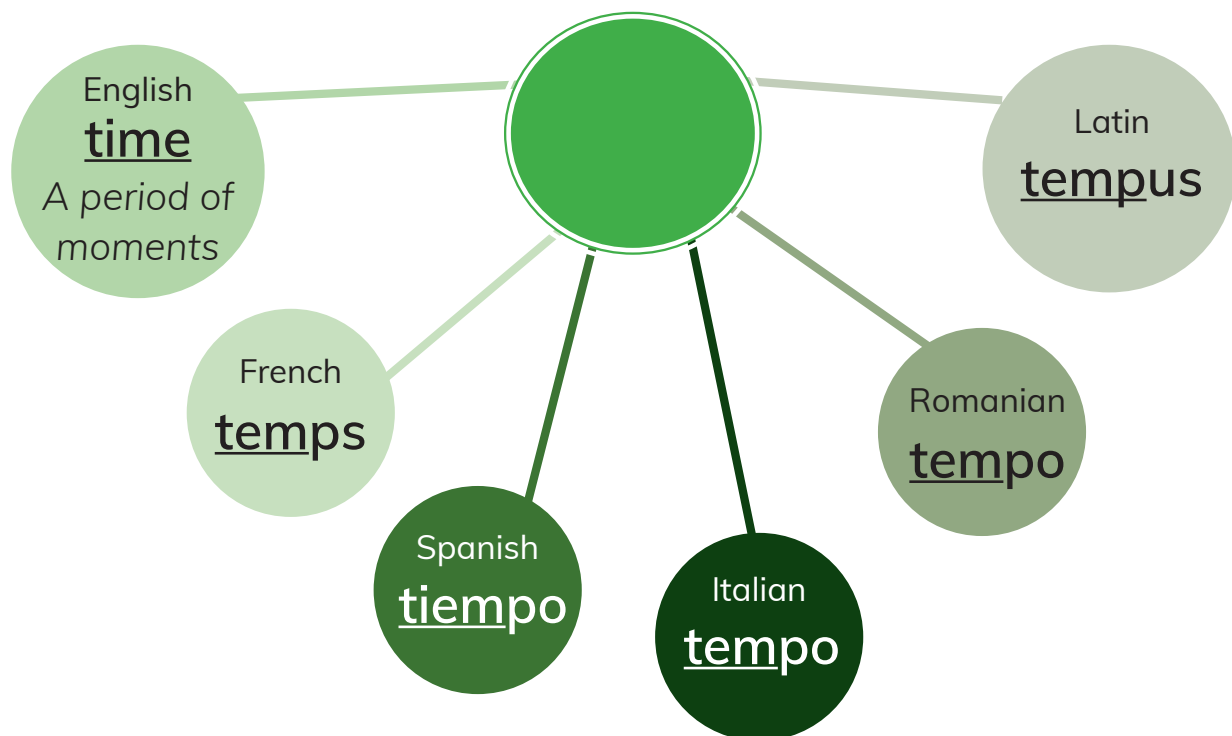
Printables

Language Trees for "Cold" and "Time"

LANGUAGE TREE FOR “COLD”



LANGUAGE TREE FOR “TIME”



GROW, EVOLVE, TRANSFORM: COLLABORATIVE ORIGAMI DISPLAY

AGES

Adults

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This is an ideal passive program for adults! Folding origami is relaxing and a great conversation starter for those waiting for children participating in other library programs. The butterfly pattern is easy to master; once learned, butterflies can be made in under three minutes. Patrons attach their finished butterflies to a wall or bulletin board to make a beautiful collaborative display. The butterflies can be the focus of the display or an embellishment. Use the inspirational phrase “Grow. Evolve. Transform.” or select another phrase with meaning in your community. Suggested runtime for an in-person program: Passive.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- 6 x 6-inch origami paper in rainbow colors (on both sides)
- Glue dots, tape, or staples to hang butterflies
- Printed instructions that links to a YouTube video
- Bulletin board or wall space, decorated as desired

Preparation: Prepare your bulletin board or wall space. Consider covering your bulletin board with a color that complements the color of the origami paper. Add an inspirational slogan and whatever images will enhance the display (such as an open book from which paper butterflies can emerge). Alternatively, reach out to a community organization to which you can donate the completed butterflies. Stock a station with origami paper, instructions, and a bin for participants to leave their completed butterflies (or tape or glue dots for them to hang their own).

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly. If running an in-person program for all ages, additional staff members or volunteers could help teach

ADAPTATION:

Include origami paper and instructions in take-and-make kits, with a link to a YouTube video for those who need visual instructions. Remember the due date if you want patrons to return their butterflies for a collaborative display!

ADAPTATION:

Also consider outreach to a community organization or facility to which you can donate the butterflies.

ADAPTATION:

Enlist tween/teen volunteers to cut pages out of old books for use as origami paper.

TIP:

For more ideas, see the Community Art Projects Brainstorm on page 76.

TIP:

Provide different sizes of origami paper. The smaller the paper, the more difficult it will be to fold.

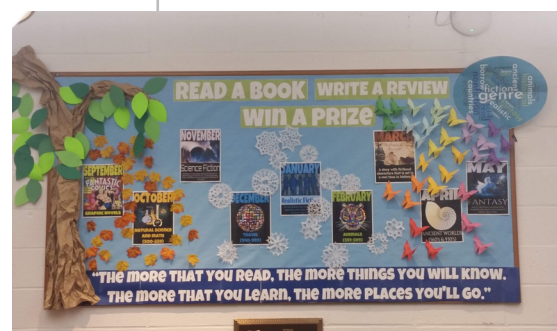


Image source: Marcia Literati, Tenafly Public Library, Tenafly, NJ.

ARTS & CRAFTS | PASSIVE | DECORATION/DISPLAY | LOW COST

the origami pattern (or show a video using a laptop/projector).

RESOURCES

Web

“How to Make an Easy Origami Butterfly” [3 min] from PPO on YouTube:

<https://bit.ly/3mSD5r6>

“History of Origami” from Georgia Tech: <https://b.gatech.edu/3xRRpq8>

“Step by Step Origami Instructions and Diagrams” from Origami.me: <https://bit.ly/3zCHoOV>

“Origami Master Robert J. Lang” [5 min] from ChristopherHelkey on YouTube: <https://langorigami.com/>

The Peace Crane Project: <https://peacecraneproject.org/>

Origami Books

The Complete Story of Sadako Sasaki and the Thousand Paper Cranes (2020) by Masahiro Sasaki and Sue DiCicco (middle grade NF)

First Art Kit (2021) by Boo Paterson (adult NF)

Origami Classic Paper Folding (2019) by Rachel Thomas (middle grade NF)

Paper Joy for Every Room (2020) by Laure Farion (adult NF)

Realistic Origami Animals (2021) by Fumiaki Kawahata (adult NF)

Tomoko Fuse’s Origami Art (2020) by David Brill (adult NF)

Printables

Easy Origami Butterfly (in English and Spanish)

TIP:

Encourage participants to make another butterfly every time they visit the library, or to make a butterfly for every book they read.

TIP:

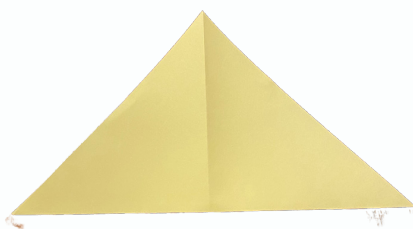
Search “butterfly bulletin boards” on Pinterest for design inspiration.

Easy Origami Butterfly instructions courtesy of Marcia Literati of Tenafly Public Library in Tenafly, NJ.



EASY ORIGAMI BUTTERFLY

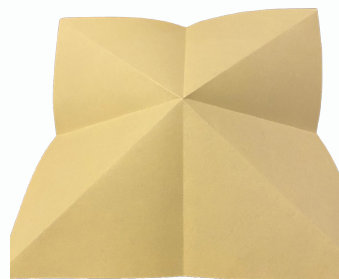
Start with a 6 x 6" piece of origami paper, or cut any paper to size.



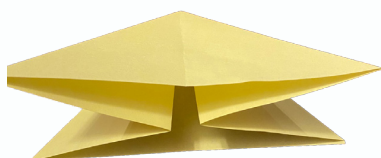
1 Fold diagonally. Open. Fold diagonally in the opposite direction. Open.



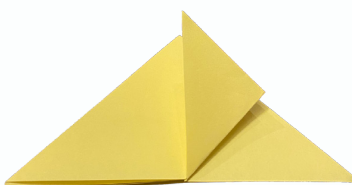
2 Flip paper over. Fold it in half. Open. Fold in half the other way. Open.



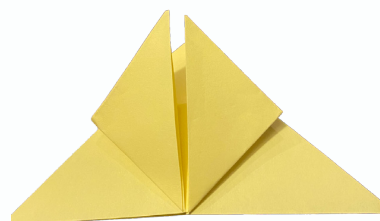
3 You will have diagonal "mountain" folds in the corners and "valley" folds in the center of each side.



4 Push against the valley folds until you have a flat triangle



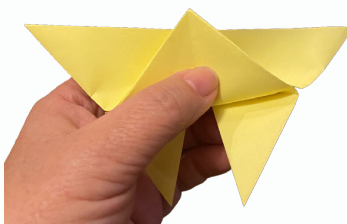
5 Fold one side point of the triangle to the center point.



6 Fold the second side point to the center point.



7 Flip paper over.



8 Curl the center point over the long edge.

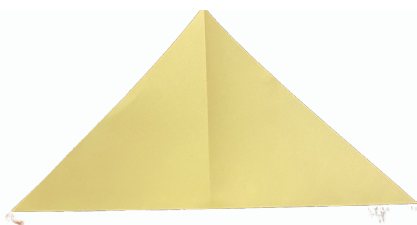


9 Fold the tip over the long edge. Pinch the wings together.



MARIPOSA DE ORIGAMI FÁCIL

Comience con un pedazo de papel de origami de 6 x 6" o corte cualquier papel a esa medida.



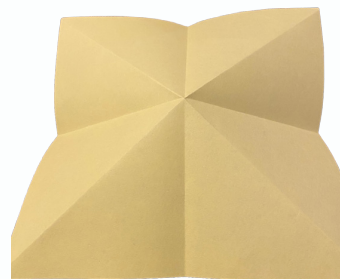
1

Doble en diagonal. Doble en diagonal en la dirección opuesta.



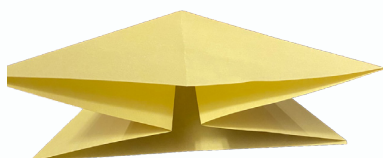
2

Voltee el papel. Doble por la mitad. Ábralo. Doble por la mitad en la dirección contraria.



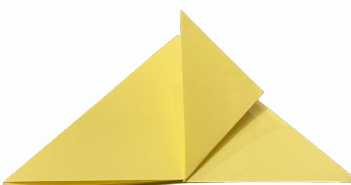
3

Usted va a tener pliegues de "montañas" diagonales en las esquinas y pliegues de "valles" en el centro de cada lado.



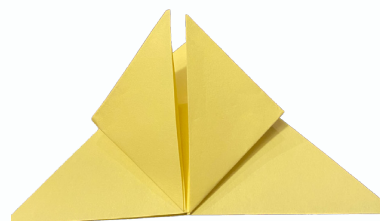
4

Empuje en contra de los pliegues de valles hasta que tenga un triángulo plano.



5

Doble un lado de punta del triángulo al punto del centro.



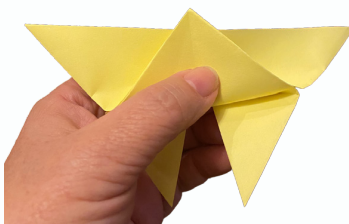
6

Doble el segundo lado de punta al punto del centro.



7

Voltee el papel.



8

Enrosque el punto del centro sobre el borde largo.



9

Doble la punta por encima del borde largo. Pellizque las alas para juntarlas.

KINDNESS TREES AND PAPER CHAINS

AGES

Children 5–8

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program describes two different crafts—paper chains and kindness trees—that remind children to do acts of kindness. Either craft can be run in-person, as a passive program, or as a take-and-make kit. As library decorations, paper chains and kindness trees can keep growing all summer long! For a take-home kit, the acts of kindness could be chores that children do at home, such as washing the car, or they could be compliments for family members, such as “I love that you help you with my homework.” Suggested runtime: 45 minutes for in-person programs.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials for paper chains (passive):

- Colored paper cut into strips
- Markers or crayons
- A sign with instructions
- A basket for completed strips

Preparation: Cut 1.5 x 8.5-inch strips of colored paper before starting the program. Leave out strips with markers or crayons, and create a sign with instructions. Provide a basket in which children can leave their completed strips. To get the chain started, create a few examples.

Materials for kindness trees (in person)

- Brown kraft paper (for an in-person program)
- Construction paper cut into leaf shapes
- Markers and tape

Materials for kindness trees (take-and-make)

- Printed tree silhouette (see Printables)
- Printed leaf silhouettes (see Printables)
- Pencils and glue sticks

For a passive program, affix a large tree silhouette to the wall (or simply a long rectangle for the trunk and smaller rectangles for a few branches). Provide pens, tape, and leaf-shaped pieces of construction paper. Children write kindness messages—or choose from a preprinted selection—and tape



Image source: Debbie Barr of Lebanon Public Library, Lebanon, IN

ADAPTATION:

Pair children up and ask them to write nice things about each other. Display the paper chains in the library!

ADAPTATION:

Run kindness challenges for older patrons using ideas from Random Acts of Kindness Foundation: <https://bit.ly/3HnjR6q>

ADAPTATION:

For take-and-make kits, provide 5–10 slips of paper for children to make their own kindness chain at home. You could also add a virtual component by reading a book about kindness and demonstrating how to make the paper chain.

TIP:

Remember books about kindness for a book display!

TIP:

Check the table daily to refill supplies and add new paper strips to the library's chain.

ARTS & CRAFTS | PASSIVE | DECORATION/DISPLAY | LOW COST

their leaves to the tree. Be sure to make a few kindness leaves for examples.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly.

RESOURCES

Web

“Create a Kindness Tree” from PBS: <https://to.pbs.org/3xQOYE5>

Picture of a finished tree from *First Palette*: <https://bit.ly/3zDyr80>

“Printable 100 Acts of Kindness” from *Coffee Cups and Crayons*: <https://bit.ly/3NUeu10>

101 more acts of kindness ideas from *Care.com*: <https://bit.ly/3xl6vTO>

Printables

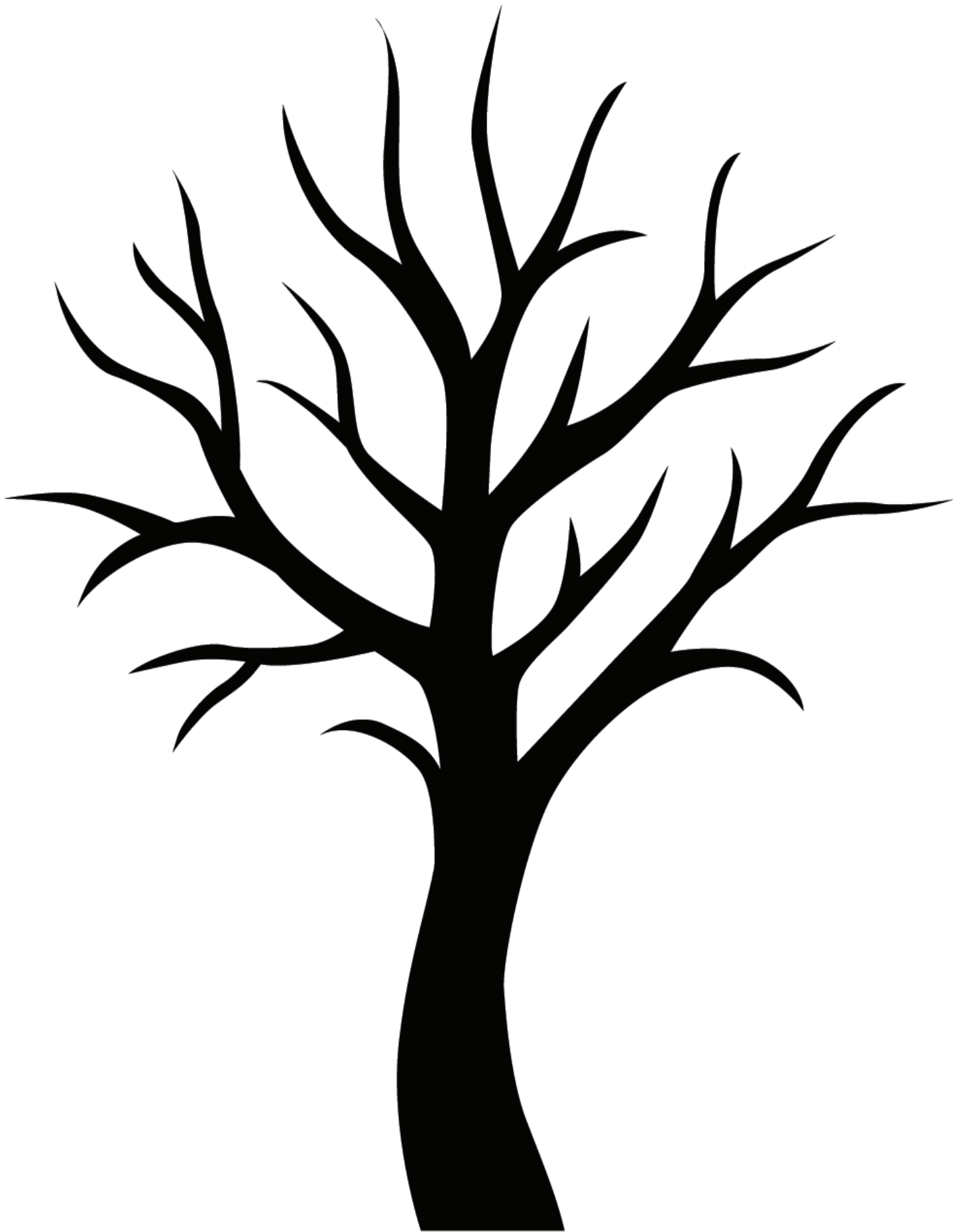
Kindness Tree Silhouette

Leaf Silhouettes

TIP:

For kindness books, see the Kindness Book List on page 186.





CHALK THE BLOCK WITH KINDNESS

AGES

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Over the course of one day (or several days), invite families to create sidewalk chalk with messages encouraging kindness. Stick to a small area or expand throughout your town or neighborhood. When possible, aim for tie-ins with other community and/or school events and festivals. Distribute kits containing sidewalk chalk, ideas, and a map, and follow up by photographing the sidewalk chalk art and sharing it on social media or in library displays. This also works great with rainbow chalk for Pride in June! See below for a recipe to make chalk yourself (or turn this into a two-part program by making the chalk together). Suggested runtime: 90–120 minutes.



Image source: Shutterstock



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials for the day of the event:

- Sidewalk chalk
- Templates/stencils (optional)
- Maps of preapproved areas for chalk art
- Handouts with message ideas and tips

Preparation:

- Contact local businesses and organizations to get approval for chalk art in front of their buildings.
- Put approved sidewalk chalk locations on a map.
- Print maps and handouts for participants.
- Source lots of chalk (or let participants make it).

Materials for making sidewalk chalk:

- Warm water
- Plaster of Paris
- Tempura paint or food coloring
- Toilet paper or paper towel rolls, or silicon molds
- Disposable masks

TIP:

Be sure to monitor the weather and reschedule as necessary. Be sure to check in with local business owners before the program to approve messages that might appear in front of their place of business.

TIP:

Consider partnering with schools, local chamber of commerce, parks department, daycares, or Spanish-language organizations.

TIP:

For a virtual program, participants brainstorm messages to write on Post-it notes, then stick them all over town.

ADAPTATION:

Make this a two-part program: Before hitting the streets, participants make their own chalk using plaster of Paris and toilet paper rolls.

TIP:

Make the library the ending location, and gather everyone for treats!

TIP:

If your map has participants cross busy streets, enlist volunteer crossing guards to help families across.

GAME/ACTIVITY | DECORATION/DISPLAY | OUTDOORS | LOW COST

- Paper towels (for cleanup)
- Plastic bags for covering tables (optional)

Assembly:

- Mix 3 cups plaster of Paris with 1.5 cups warm water, and stir.
- Add tempura paint or food coloring, and stir.
- Spoon mixture into toilet paper rolls, wiping off any drips.
- Let chalk dry for 24 hours before peeling off paper rolls.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly if the event is held in a contained area with little-to-no traffic. Volunteers would be helpful to photograph chalk art and to monitor safety during larger events.

RESOURCES

Web

Sidewalk chalk tutorial from Craft Warehouse: <https://bit.ly/3xQrY8v>

Tips for chalk art festival from Lasso the Moon: <https://bit.ly/3NQR1Od>

Chalk art (grid method) from Chalk Artists Guild: <https://bit.ly/3mO3g2w>

Tips for neighborhood chalk art from Learn with Mochi: <https://bit.ly/3MP-JYeb>

“Sidewalk Chalk Art Tutorial: Elephant” [2 min] from STL ZooTube on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3aXGCBU>

“Chalk the Walk” from the ALSC Blog: <https://bit.ly/3OgYwy4>

Books

The Case of the Missing Chalk Drawings (2018) by Richard Byrne (picture book F)

The Chalk Art Handbook (2021) by David Zinn (middle grade NF)

The Chalk Giraffe (2020) by Kirsty Paxton and illustrated by Megan Lotter (picture book F)

Printables

Kind Message Ideas (in English and Spanish)

TIP:

During the program, be sure to have staff members or volunteers document the art, which you can then share on social media or in the library!

TIP:

Remember disposable masks! Plaster of Paris is non-toxic, but the dust can irritate lungs.

TIP:

Work quickly. Plaster starts to dry in 20–30 minutes.

TIP:

For kindness books, see the Kindness Book List on page 186.

KIND MESSAGE IDEAS / IDEAS DE MENSAJES AMABLES

ENGLISH	SPANISH
Dream big!	¡Sueña en grande!
Shine bright.	Brilla.
Believe in yourself.	Cree en ti.
Be the change	Sé tú el cambio.
You've got this.	Puedes hacerlo.
Never stop learning	Nunca dejes de aprender.
It gets better.	Se pone cada vez mejor.
Aspire to inspire.	Aspira a inspirar.
You rock!	¡Eres lo máximo!
Follow your dreams.	Sigue tus sueños.
Make today amazing	Haz de hoy un día especial.
Stay true to you.	Sé fiel a ti.
Never give up	Nunca te rindas.
Never stop learning	Nunca dejes de aprender.
It's cool to be kind.	Es genial ser amable.
You make the world a better place.	Haces del mundo un lugar mejor.
We're all in this together.	Estamos todos juntos en esto.
Be a rainbow to someone's cloud.	Sé el arcoíris de las nubes grises de
Every day is another chance.	Cada día es otra oportunidad.