

FRIENDSHIP JEWELRY EXTRAVAGANZA

AGES

Tweens 9–12

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Making friendship bracelets is a classic tween activity, and they love to share their creations with their besties. This program includes instructions for the classic technique as well as three variations: Binary code friendship bracelets, puzzle piece necklaces, and the Kumihimo knotting technique, which may also appeal to teens and adults. All of these friendship jewelry variations are easily adapted to take-and-make kits. Instead of bracelets, you could also use the same techniques to make backpack dangles or bookmarks. Suggested runtime: 60–90 minutes.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Classic Friendship Bracelets

Materials: See Printables.

Binary Code Friendship Bracelets

Materials:

- Beads in at least two colors
- String or pipe cleaners
- Binary code alphabet sheets (see printable)
- Trays or cookie sheets (optional)

For a STEM twist, create bracelets the express initials in binary code! Binary code is a series of 1s and 0s. Using beads of your choice, designate one color to represent “1” and another color to represent “0.” This program might spark tweens’ interest in coding!

Puzzle Pieces Friendship Necklaces

Materials:

- Puzzle pieces (two interlocking pieces per participant)
- Paint, brushes, and containers
- Push pins to make holes
- String for the necklace chains (two per participant)

Before the program, assemble a section of the puzzle and give it a per-



Image source: Lawren Dodson of Lafayette Public Library, Lafayette, LA

TIP:

Friendship bracelets bring good luck! Legend has it that if you make a wish while tying on a bracelet, it will come true once the bracelet falls off of its own accord.

TIP:

To allow those with disabilities to accomplish tasks without feeling pressure to ask for assistance, offer a variety of materials and art tools for any craft you choose.

ADAPTATION:

For visually impaired patrons, creating a bracelet with beads is more feasible than working with floss.

TIP:

For book displays, consider knotting techniques from around the world or fictional characters you would give a friendship bracelet to.

ADAPTATION:

For children 5–8, skip the binary code and provide beads with letters.

TIP:

If you provide beads, give each child a tray or cookie sheet to keep them off the floor.

TIP:

For another STEM topic, use UV (aka solaractive) beads for “1” and rainbow beads

ARTS & CRAFTS | PASSIVE

functory pass with sand paper. Then paint this section with a base layer of paint. Separate the pieces while the paint is still wet to prevent them from sticking together. This base layer makes it easier for children to paint and prevents the old design from showing through. During the program, children paint two interlocking puzzle pieces, then turn each piece into a necklace. Encourage them to give the second necklace to a friend.

Kumihimo Bracelets

Materials: See Printables.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Extra staff members or volunteers to help with crafts, depending on the size of your group.

RESOURCES

Web

Classic friendship bracelet instructions from *DIY to Donate*:

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

Puzzle piece necklace on *Instructables*: <https://bit.ly/3QdSfEY>

Kumihimo video from *The Dream Lab* on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3xBAYyd>

Kumihimo beading technique from *Beadaholic*: <https://bit.ly/3ml44Wg>

Craft Books

Craft Books Beginner's Guide to Japanese Braiding: The Art of Kumihimo (2020) by Jacqui Carey

A Beginner's Guide to Kumihimo (2018) by Donna McKean-Smith

Friendship Bracelets: The 10 Essential Bracelets Everyone Should Know! (2020) by Keith Zoo

Printables

Classic Friendship Bracelet Instructions (in English and Spanish)

Binary Code Alphabet

Kumihimo Friendship Bracelet Instructions (in English and Spanish)



Image source: Azita Frattarelli of Riverview Veterans Memorial Library, Riverview, MI



Image source: Martha Matthews, MidPointe Library, Middletown, OH

for “0.” UV beads look white indoors, but they change color outside (in daylight). You could go into the science of different types of solar rays to explain why the beads change color.

TIP:

This is a great way to reuse puzzles that may be missing some pieces.

TIP:

Prepare an activity for the children to do while the paint dries.

TIP:

If running an in-person program, precut the cardboard pieces, and precut the string into 24-inch lengths (or provide an easy way to measure string length, such as tape on a table).

TIP:

For Kumihimo knotting (or any other knotting technique), use thick yarn to demonstrate, which will be easier for a group to see.

TIP:

Check your collection for any classic friendship bracelet-making books by Suzanne McNeill.

TIP:

For children's books about coding and Scratch, see *Scratch + micro:bit* on page 86.

TIP:

For friendship fiction, see the *Friendship Fiction Book List* on page 44.

Classic Friendship Bracelet Instructions

Materials:

- Safety pins or tape
- Embroidery floss in assorted colors (3–6 stands of 30 inches per bracelet)
- Scissors
- Sandwich bags for take-and-make kits (optional)

Steps:

Step 1: Place the three strands together.

Step 2: Tie a knot roughly 1–1.5 inches from the end.

Step 3: Safety pin or tape down the knot.

Step 4: Pick up one strand of floss furthest to the left and place it over the next strand creating a “4”.

Step 5: Pull the end of the working strand through the loop and pull up creating a knot. (This knot is called the forward knot.) Repeat again.

Step 6: Continue with the same working strand until the row is finished.

Step 7: Pick up the next strand further to the left and repeat steps 4–6 until the desired length is reached. Tie a knot to finish the bracelet.

Instrucciones Para La Pulsera De La Amistad Clásica

Materials:

- Hilo para bordar en colores variados (3–6 hebras de 30” por pulsera)
- Alfileres de gancho o cinta adhesiva
- Tijeras
- Bolsas de sándwiches para llevar los kits a todos lados (opcional)

Pasos:

Paso 1: Coloca las tres hebras juntas

Paso 2: Haz un nido aproximadamente 1–1.5 pulgadas del extremo.

Paso 3: Sujeta el nudo con el alfiler de gancho o la cinta adhesiva.

Paso 4: Toma la hebra de hilo más a la izquierda y colócala sobre la siguiente hebra creando un “4”.

Paso 5: Mete el extremo de la hebra trabajada a través del bucle y tira de él creando un nudo. (Este nudo se llama forward knot). Repite de nuevo.

Paso 6: Continúa con la misma hebra trabajada hasta que se termine la hilera.

Paso 7: Levante la próxima hebra de más a la izquierda y repita los pasos 4–6 hasta lograr el largo deseado. Haga un nudo para terminar la pulsera.



Image source: Shutterstock

LETTERS IN BINARY CODE

LETTER	BINARY CODE
A	01000001
B	01000010
C	01000011
D	01000100
E	01000101
F	01000110
G	01000111
H	01001000
I	01001001
J	01001010
K	01001011
L	01001100
M	01001101
N	01001110
O	01001111
P	01010000
Q	01010001
R	01010010
S	01010011
T	01010100
U	01010101
V	01010110
W	01010111
X	01011000
Y	01011001
Z	01011010

Kumihimo Friendship Bracelet Instructions

Materials:

- Cardboard disc 4 inches in diameter (one per participant)
- Embroidery thread cut into 24-inch pieces (seven per participant)
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Instructions handout

Steps:

Step 1. Prepare 4-inch cardboard squares, one per participant.

Step 2. Cut a circle out of the cardboard using the template provided.

Step 3. Make a hole in the center.

Step 4. Divide the circle into eight parts (or any number of parts up to 32!)

Step 5. Cut 1 inch into the cardboard on each part.

Step 6. Tie the seven strings together. Push the knot below the hole.

Step 7. Distribute the seven strings one per slot (there will be a vacant slot).

Step 8. With the vacant slot towards you, move the third string to the right into the vacant slot.

Step 9. Rotate disk so the new vacant slot is towards you. Repeat step 8.

Step 10. Continue steps 9 and 10 until you reach the desired length.

Step 11. Remove braid and tie the ends together around your wrist.

Instrucciones Para La Pulsera De La Amistad Kumihimo

Materials:

- Disco de cartón de 4 pulgadas de diámetro (uno por participante)
- Hilo de bordado en pedazos de 24 pulgadas (siete por participante)
- Tijeras
- Lápices
- Instrucciones

Pasos:

Paso 1. Prepare cuadrados de cartón de 4 pulgadas, uno por participante.

Paso 2. Corte un círculo del cartón usando la plantilla proporcionada.

Paso 3. Haga un hueco en el medio.

Paso 4. Divida el círculo en ocho partes (¡o cualquier número hasta el 32!)

Paso 5. Corte 1 pulgada en el cartón en cada parte.

Paso 6. Ate las siete hebras juntas. Empuje el nudo por debajo del hueco.

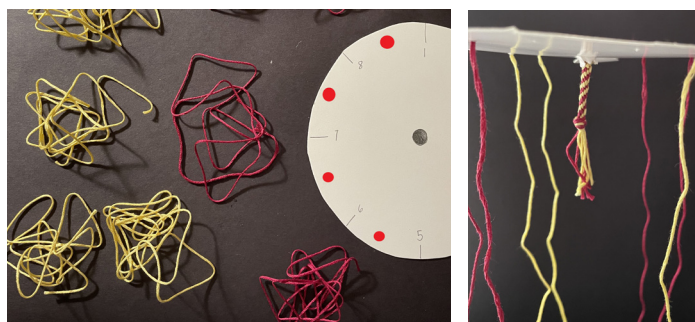
Paso 7. Distribuya las siete hebras, una por ranura (habrá una ranura libre).

Paso 8. Coloque la ranura libre hacia usted, mueva la tercera hebra hacia la derecha en la ranura libre.

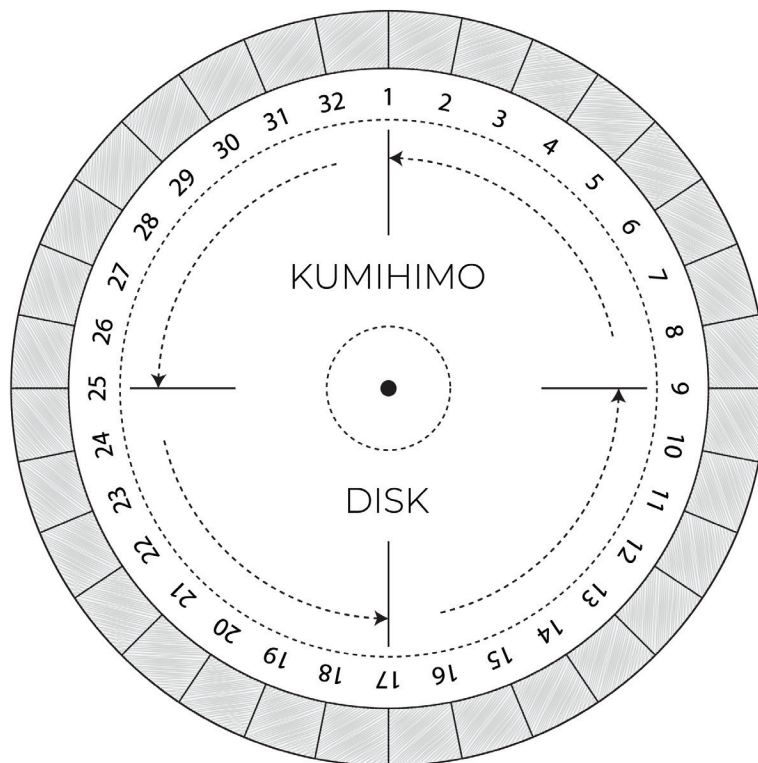
Paso 9. Rote el disco para que la nueva ranura libre esté hacia usted. Repita el paso 8.

Paso 10. Continúe haciendo los pasos 9 y 10 hasta lograr el largo deseado.

Paso 11. Retire la trenza y ate los extremos juntos alrededor de su muñeca.



Images source: Alzita Frattarelli of Riverview Veterans Memorial Library, Riverview, MI



DONUTS AND ART: A PERFECT PAIR

AGES

Tweens 9–12

Teens 13–18

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Donuts and art make a perfect pair! This art project mashes the works of Vassily Kandinsky (specifically *Color Study, Squares with Concentric Circles*) and Wayne Theibauld (specifically *Cakes*) to create an artfully arranged wall of donuts. Every participant paints their own donut on canvas or paper; when arranged together, the pieces become a work of friendship and collaboration. To emphasize friendship, pair up participants and ask them to make two donut paintings that complement each other in some way (color, form, layout, style, etc.). Registration recommended. Suggested runtime: 60–90 minutes.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Canvas (one per participant)
- Acrylic paints and paint brushes
- Tablecloths, paper towels, cups, and water
- Donuts for snacking (optional)

Before painting, give a brief art history lesson on the works of Vassily Kandinsky and Wayne Theibauld. Guide the discussion by asking questions: What colors do you see? How do the paintings make you feel? Do you think these paintings could be paired together? Do they represent a theme?

Explain that you will be working together to create a giant wall of donuts. After the paintings have dried, hang them up. Be sure to share examples for those who would rather copy a donut design than come up with their own.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly. In-person programs may require a microwave (for Rice Krispy treats).

ADAPTATION:

For a passive program that can be aged down, provide donut coloring sheets. Turn the finished pages into a donut wall quilt that grows over the summer.

TIP:

For more famous artist-inspired projects, see ideas from the Art with Jenny K. blog here: <https://bit.ly/3NN79QX>

TIP:

You can also include a lesson on color mixing! Consider reaching out to local artists to help run this program.



Image source: Shutterstock

RESOURCES

Web

“Wassily Kandinsky” from *The Art Story*: <https://bit.ly/3MD1nQt>

“Wayne Thiebaud” from *The Art Story*: <https://bit.ly/3ttBVq0>

Books

Donut Fiction

Donut the Destroyer (2020) by Sarah Graley and Stef Purenins (middle grade)

Donuts and Other Proclamations of Love (2021) by Jared Reck (YA)

The Doughnut Fix (2018) by Jessie Janowitz (middle grade)

The Doughnut King (2019) by Jessie Janowitz (middle grade)

Nonfiction

The Art of Graphic Communication (2019) by W.L. Kitts (YA)

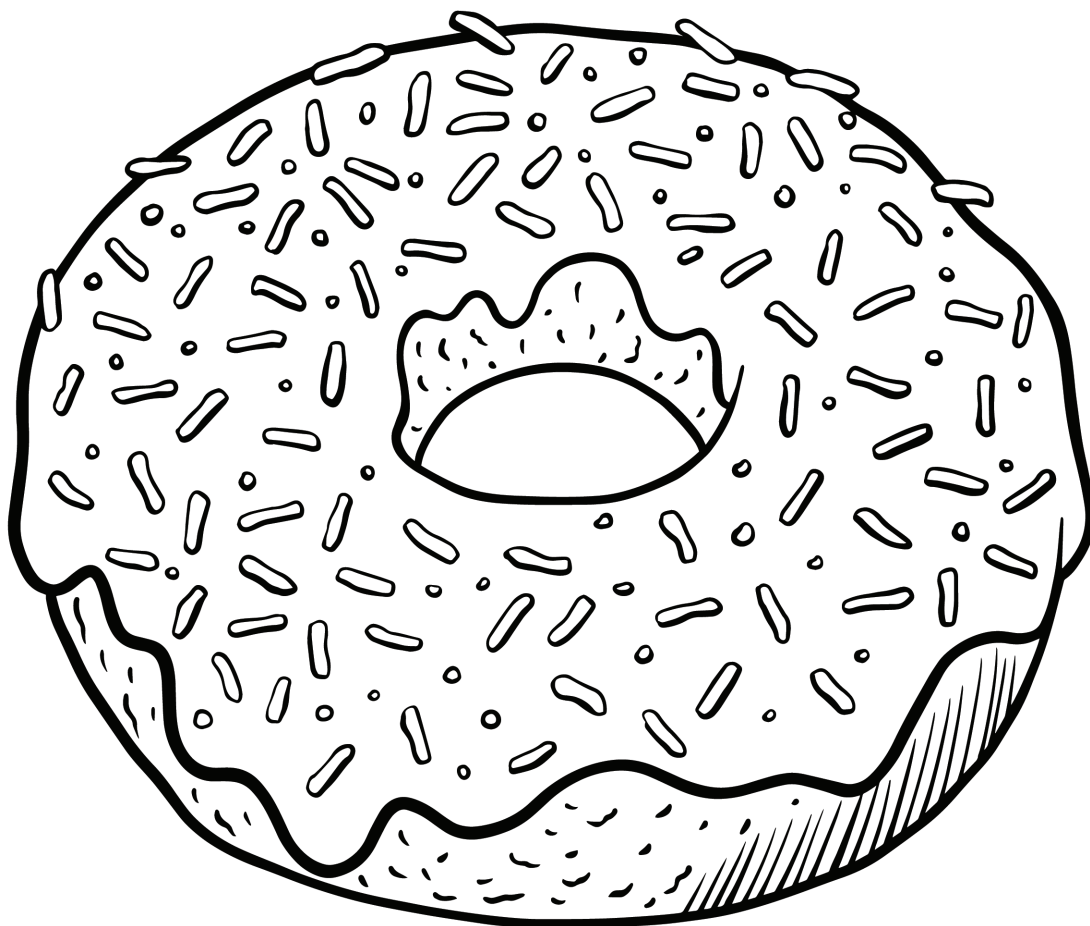
Art Matters (2018) by Neil Gaiman (YA)

Delicious Metropolis: The Desserts and Urban Scenes of Wayne Thiebaud (2019) by Wayne Thiebaud (adult)

The Life and Art of Wassily Kandinsky (2016) by Adam Simpson (YA)

Printables

Donut Coloring Page



MULTIGENERATIONAL BRAINSTORM: PEN PAL PROGRAMS

Looking for some fresh ideas for a pen pal or letter-writing program? See the collaborative brainstorm from CSLP's manual committees below!

CHILDREN

- Challenge children to write letters to their favorite characters in books. Hold a party for whichever fictional characters get the most letters by the end of the summer. Read some of their letters during the celebration.
- The Flat Stanley Project: Partner with a school to exchange artwork (flat visitors), postcards, and more! <http://www.flatstanleyproject.com/>
- Have children write/draw notes to seniors at a local retirement home. You could also do this as part of an intergenerational storytime. If you ask seniors to write back, be sure to screen the letters.
- Partner with another library. Have a mailbox and letter-writing station where children can write or draw (and "send") their letters.
- Hold a contest to see who can make the most colorful/creative/realistic greeting card art related to your theme. Display the cards and mail them off at the end of the summer.

TWEENS/TEENS

- Hold a passive program where teens design (and write) their own greeting cards. This can be made to fit any theme, and the cards can be sent to any group of people. In addition to paper, envelopes, and craft supplies, you could also set out stickers and copies of poems, quotations, or royalty-free images for teens to use. Consider providing origami paper (and instructions) so teens can include origami creatures as well.
- Take a field trip to deliver cards to community recipients, and pair this delivery with a group activity such as coloring, Bingo, or retro board games.
- Set up a table for writing letters (or drawing pictures) to recipients of your choosing (e.g., troops overseas, elders in your community, etc.). Include prompts for what they could write about. Teens submit their letters, and a staff member screens them for appropriateness before sending. This could be a one-off program or a passive program that lasts the whole summer.

MULTIGENERATIONAL

- Offer postage-paid postcards that feature special things about your city or state. Invite patrons to write kind notes, then collect the

TIP:

To accommodate different ages and abilities, be sure to emphasize that patrons can either write a letter or make art.

TIP:

For recipients, consider troops overseas, folks in nursing homes, children in hospitals, schools in other countries, and health care heroes. A letter-writing program can be modified to suit almost any theme.

TIP:

Be sure to include some ideas for what participants could write or draw!

TIP:

Asking in the CSLP Facebook group for potential library partners is a great place to start.

cards and send them to libraries and schools all over the country or world. You can let patrons choose where to send them, or choose yourself based on your connections with partners. Be sure to make a bulletin board with maps of where cards were sent (and/or to display postcards received from other places!). (See Early Literacy Standalone Printables for a blank postcard template.)

- Request that patrons who take summer vacations send a postcard with a kind note for a library bulletin board. See how many states and countries your patrons collect!
- Do a cultural exchange with a library in another country. Each library sends crafts (made by patrons) that represent something about your community and letters/postcards describing those things. You can start by create a Google form to ask patrons what they think is important/unique about your city or town. The Dalkey Library in Dalkey, Ireland made an online display about such an exchange: <https://bit.ly/3NJ1Vpq>
- Ask patrons to do an act of kindness. Give them a list of simple ideas that work for your community.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Introduction to letter-writing for children 5–9 from *Reading Rockets*: <https://bit.ly/3mA7n1R>

Letters Against Isolation program: <https://www.lettersagainstisolation.com/>

Where to send greeting cards from *Doing Good Together*: <https://bit.ly/3OdkIZX>

Guidelines for sending letters for elders: <https://loveforourelers.org/letters>

Letter guidelines from *Operation Support Our Troops*: <https://bit.ly/3QdTqnS>

Tips for letter-writing from *Maya Smart*: <https://bit.ly/3QiSE95>

TIP:

Teens love junk art, so making cards is a great way to use up your leftover crafting supplies!

TIP:

Be sure to have examples of card designs to help teens visualize the possibilities. You can also encourage teens who want to create digital cards (try Canva) by making it easy to print their designs.

STEPS WITH PETS

AGES

Children 5–8

Tweens 9–12

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Team up with a local animal shelter adoption center to run a donation drive! First, ask your local animal shelter what kinds of items they need. Tweens could help promote the drive and tally the items, and maybe even take a field trip to deliver them at the end of the summer. Remember to put out informational materials from the shelter for those who might be interested in volunteering or adopting. Donation runs of any kind are great multigenerational programs to run throughout the summer. Suggested runtime: Passive.



Image source: Shutterstock

TIP:

If bringing animals into the library, provide water bowls. For children who do not want to interact with animals directly, provide some extra activity options, such as coloring sheets.

More program ideas:

- Invite therapy dogs to the library, and schedule children to read to them in 15-minute increments. For new readers, reading to animals increases reading confidence, lowers anxiety, and reduces stress!
- Hold a stuffed animal drive to collect used stuffed animals to donate.
- Make pet toys, and donate the toys.
- Make simple blankets to donate (see No-Sew Blankets on page 146.)
- For a STEM project, build cat/dog houses for animals without shelter. You can purchase kits or let children design houses out of recycled materials.
- Create animal toy take-and-make kits, such as for an easy dog rope toy. (Be sure to ask the shelter beforehand what kinds of toys they accept.)
- For another reading idea, patrons could sit quietly and read in front of the shelter pets' cages to help animals adapt to living in a home space when they are adopted. For every five animals they sit with, patrons earn a treat or a toy that they can donate towards a shelter pet of their choice.

RESOURCES

Web

"Reading Education Assistance Dogs (R.E.A.D.)" from Intermountain Therapy Animals: <https://therapyanimals.org/read/>

Printable activities from The College of Animal Welfare: <https://bit.ly/3aVcibc>

Therapy dog organizations recognized by The American Kennel Club: <https://bit.ly/3He26q7>

Blog post about therapy dogs in the library from ALSC: <https://bit.ly/3NJKSDI>

Free reading buddy kit from Mrs. Winters Bliss: <https://bit.ly/3HeurNI>

OUTREACH | PASSIVE | LOW COST

Middle Grade Fiction

Allergic (2021) by Megan Wagner Lloyd

Animal Rescue Friends (Epic! #6) (2021) by Gina Loveless and Meika Hashimoto, and illustrated by Genevieve Kote

Besties: Work It Out (2021) by Kayla Miller and Jeffrey Canino, and illustrated by Kristina Luu

Elvis and the World as It Stands (2021) by Lisa Frenkel Riddiough and Olivia Chin Mueller

My Father's Words (2018) by Patricia MacLachlan

Raising Lumie (2020) by Joan Bauer

Middle Grade Nonfiction

Daring Dogs: 30 True Tales of Heroic Hounds (2020) by Kimberlie Hamilton

Fearless Felines: 30 True Tales of Courageous Cats (2019) by Kimberlie Hamilton

Playful Pet Projects series (2021) by Ruth Owen

SENIOR STORYTELLING OUTREACH

AGES

Children 5–8

Tweens 9–12

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Outreach is not just for adults; children can participate too! Children read their favorite stories to older people in their lives, whether grandparents, relatives, staff members, or community members in a nursing home. Hold a library-wide read-in, or let this be a passive program throughout the summer. Alternatively, make it into a swap: The child reads a story, and then the older person reads or tells a story in return. If a child is unable to meet the chosen adult in person, set up a Zoom station for them to do a virtual reading. Suggested runtime: 45–60 minutes.



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Computer/laptop with a camera
- Books (from your collection or from participants)

Preparation: Ask families to choose a senior for their child to read to, or develop a sign-up system for partnerships with a local nursing home (which might be willing to take a field trip to the library for a read-in). If the youth section is small, coordinate with other library departments so they understand that families might need to spread out. If running virtually and you plan to record, be sure to obtain the appropriate permissions to record audio/video.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

This can take place throughout the library; have a staff member monitor each area.

RESOURCES

Intergenerational Picture Books

Grandad's Camper (2021) by Harry Woodgate

Grandpa's Top Threes (2019) by Wendy Meddour and Daniel Egneus

ADAPTATION:

With tweens, make manicure kits to be delivered to nursing homes, or partner with a licensed manicurist to provide manicures to residents. In the kits, tweens could include special notes or share nail art design ideas. Consider running this as a two-part program: On the first day, tweens compile kits and design some nail art. The second day is an optional field trip for manicures at the nursing home.

TIP:

You might find it helpful to have a lesson on kindness to elders before this outreach activity.

ADAPTATION:

For a community-wide program, use Omeka to create a local history digital archive. Patrons record interviews with elders and upload them to the archive. Omeka is inexpensive, easy to use, and searchable (it uses Dublin Core metadata). See an example from Tenafly Public Library in Tenafly, NJ at tpl.omeka.net

OUTREACH | GAME/ACTIVITY | LOW COST

Granny's Kitchen (2022) by Sadé Smith and illustrated by Ken Daly

I Love My Glam-ma (2019) by Samantha Berger and illustrated by Sujean Rim

Madame Babobedah (2020) by Sophie Dahl and illustrated by Lauren O'Hara

The Most Beautiful Thing (2020) by Kao Kalia Lang and illustrated by Khoa Lee

When Grandma Gives You a Lemon Tree (2019) by Jamie L.B. Deenihan and Lorrain Rocha

Intergenerational Middle Grade

Caterpillar Summer (2018) by Gillian McDunn

Soul Lanterns (2021) by Shaw Kuzki

When You Trap a Tiger (2020) by Tae Keller

ADAPTATION:

If partnering with a nursing home, puzzles or collaborative art projects are great activities to consider.

PLIX & CSLP: SPATIAL POETRY

AGES

Children 5–8

Tweens 9–12

Teens 13–18

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Make poems out of street names in your community! Poems have historically influenced many of the place names we know today, and many contemporary poets rethink the ties between language, place, and belonging. In this program, children or teens re-imagine local maps with poetry to renew their understanding of place. Participants expand their local data research skills as well as develop their expressive writing. Choose from a wide variety of workshop prompts below, or come up with your own to best suit your audience. These ideas could work as either structured workshops or passive activities. Suggested group size: 10–15. Suggested runtime: 45–60 minutes.

WORKSHOP IDEAS:

- **Main street memories:** Invite patrons to bring a photograph that features a specific place in your community, and encourage them to share stories about that place with the group. This could also be a Zoom program. Invite them to digitize their photographs in a shared database.
- **Street shape poem:** Trace the shape of a particular street, and use that street and its intersections to write a poem.
- **Found map poem:** Take a map and create a poem by erasing, collaging, and/or drawing over the top of it.
- **Walking poem:** Take a walk around your area and write down notable places and street names. Write a poem incorporating these words in the order you saw them on your walk.
- **Renaming poem:** Write a poem where each line renames a particular street or place in a different way. The new names can be words, phrases, or even sentences.
- **Site-specific:** Choose a location for a site-specific reading series and/or compile an e-book or zine out of patrons' poems about that place.
- **Open mics:** Host a community open mic night (for families or a specific age group). Participants read their own poems or poems by famous regional poets. Alternatively, invite local poets to read from and discuss their work.



Image source:
Shutterstock

The Public Library Innovation Exchange (PLIX) is a project of the MIT Media Lab Digital Learning & Collaboration Studio. This program was adapted by CSLP with permission and remains under a CC BY-SA 4.0 license. Link to original PLIX program here: <https://bit.ly/3MlyLW5>

ADAPTATION:

For teens and older, emphasize place-naming in America, particularly its historical ties to colonization. Connect with local renaming campaigns. Draw on current topics in geography, poetry, and journalism, and media-making. See link in Resources for the original Spatial Poetry program from PLIX.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Various printed local maps, historical and contemporary
- Printed Spatial Poetry zines (one per participant)
- Paper, with or without grids
- Supplies for collaging (if applicable)

RESOURCES

Web

“Spatial Poetry” from PLIX: <https://bit.ly/3MUI3zw>

Mapping resources (by state) from PLIX: <https://bit.ly/3xpBPR8>

Books

Adventures to School: Real-Life Journeys of Students Around the World (2018) by Miranda Paul and Baptise Paul, and illustrated by Isabel Muñoz (picture book NF)

A Map Into the World (2019) by Kao Kalia Yang and illustrated by Seo Kim (early reader F)

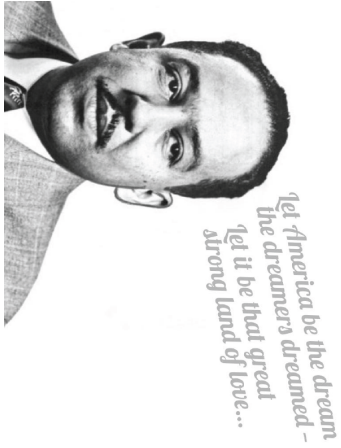
My Two Border Towns (2021) by David Bowles and illustrated by Erika Meza (picture book F)

Printables

PLIX Spatial Poetry Zine

TIP:

If it exists in your area, consider partnering with mass transit. Participants can add bus routes to their maps (or take a bus to new places). Volunteers could also donate books for bus book racks for children to peruse while riding. See example from *Portland Press Herald*: <https://bit.ly/3aMY4sK>



The language of places has inspired and informed poets — from Homer to Langston Hughes. By writing poems about a landscape, they made sense of what it meant to live there.



Sailing over the wine-dark sea to men of strange speech

Poetry and Place

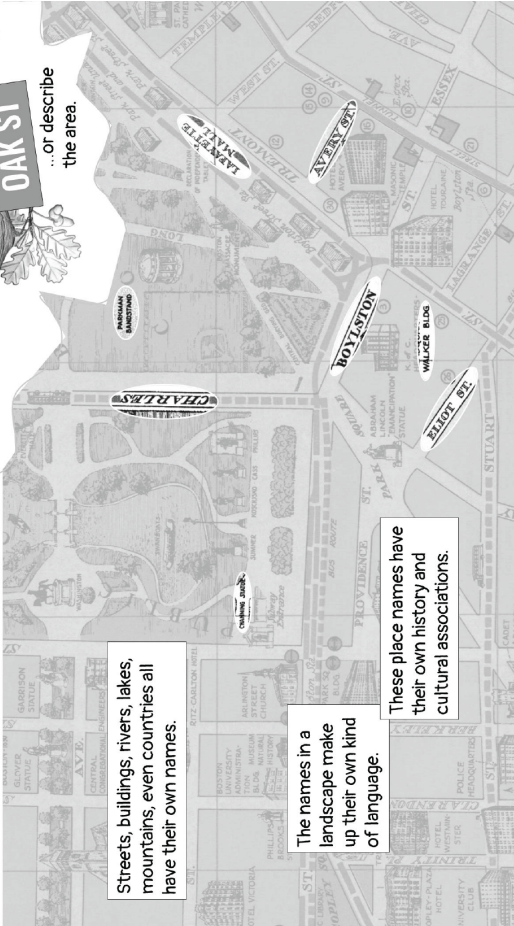
Place names might reflect the values of a society... or memorialize a historical figure...

FREEDOM ST

Martin L. Kingfisher Blvd

OAK ST

...or describe the area.



Finding Your Way

Look at a map of where you live. What do all the words mean? Are the words easy to pronounce? Where do these names come from?

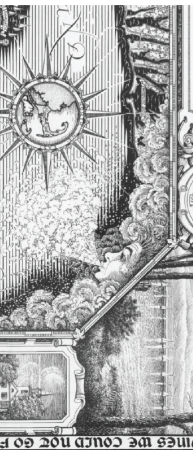
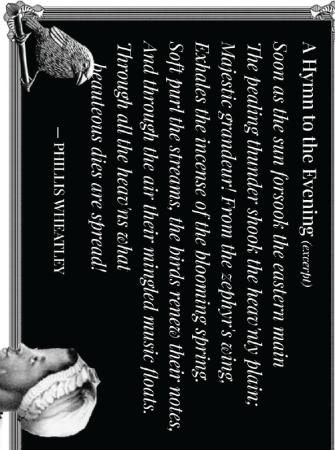
Streets, buildings, rivers, lakes, mountains, even countries all have their own names.

The names in a landscape make up their own kind of language.

These place names have their own history and cultural associations.



Poems capture how people think and feel within a place. Poets often describe places, making them almost legendary.



Shaping Space

Some poets simply reflect on a place and their own thoughts and feelings on its name.

Maps can be poems. Words in them can be highlighted or erased to make a story or idea — or to ask about the landscape depicted.



Spatial Poetry



PLIX

Remix this!
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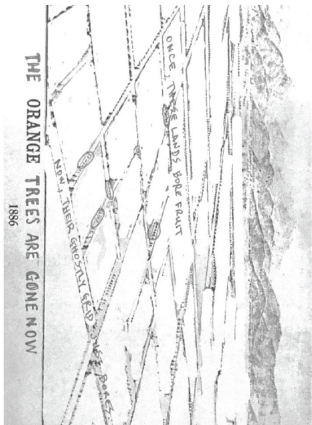
This zine was created by the MIT Media Lab Public Library Innovation Exchange (PLIX) and Hua Xi of the Spatial Poetry Project.

Display your spatial poems on its website — visit spatial-poetry.com for more details.

Map examples courtesy of David Rumsey Map Collection, David Rumsey Map Center, Stanford Libraries (non-commercial CC license).

Share your creations using #heyplix #PLIXSpatialPoetry (and tag @heyplix)

plix.media.mit.edu



COMMUNITY PUZZLES SCAVENGER HUNT

AGES

Children 5–8

Tweens 9–12

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Looking for the fun of an escape room without the claustrophobic feel? Want to engage with your community? A timed community scavenger hunt might be just what you need! Knowing your community is a big part of this project. Consider public parks, playgrounds, historical markers, non-profit organizations, or local businesses. Prepare a small challenge for each stop, such as rearranging tiles to make a word, or finding a word or letter to complete a phrase. Families or small groups collaborate to solve the puzzles. Bragging rights are definitely at play here, so be sure to showcase the winners on your library's social media platforms. Suggested runtime: 2–3 hours.

Alternatively, run a similar scavenger hunt that lasts all summer. Businesses or service providers offer small prizes or stickers to those who stop by, and participants are entered for a prize at the end of the summer. Source larger gift donations from local businesses. You can keep the scavenger hunt the same all summer or put out a new version every month that features different community organizations.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

For the community-wide scavenger hunt:

- Bright laminated signs at each location (for the one-day version)
- Zip ties and/or tape (for the one-day version)
- Sidewalk chalk to mark path or obstacle course (for the one-day version)
- Printed maps of the entire area (draw your own or superimpose over Google maps)
- Pencils and printed instructions
- Prizes

For the library-specific scavenger hunt:

- Signs to mark each scavenger hunt location
- Printed library maps, with locations marked
- Pencils and printed instructions
- Prizes

Preparation:

Plan the stops and write the instructions. You can either outline the direct



Image source: Shutterstock

ADAPTATION:

You could also make a library-specific hunt to familiarize patrons with library resources, or link community resources to specific areas in the library (e.g., link the local history museum to nonfiction books on local history).

TIP:

The community-wide scavenger hunt is a great multigenerational program for families; the library-only adaptation is better for children who will be unaccompanied.

TIP:

To improve accessibility, be sure to include a variety of scavenger hunt items that patrons can smell, hear, and touch.

GAME/ACTIVITY | PASSIVE | OUTDOORS | LOW COST

route or provide clues that participants need to figure out. If you want your event to seem more like a treasure hunt, clues are better than directions. Keep things as simple as possible. Make one sign for each stop. Create your map after you have decided on the stops.

Next, design activities and puzzles. For easy hunts, simply place one letter or word at each stop; participants gather them to complete a word, phrase, or sentence. You could also have them collect individual supplies for a craft project or science experiment (e.g., all the materials needed to make a beaded friendship bracelet).

Distribute signs for the community-wide option in advance, and be sure to touch base with all volunteers and partners the day before (and day of) the event.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

For a day-long, community-wide event, you will need at least one volunteer at each station.

RESOURCES

Web

Scavenger hunt ideas from *Good Housekeeping*: <https://bit.ly/3HdqEQc>

Scavenger hunt ideas from *Scavenger Hunt*: <https://bit.ly/3mA51QL>

Middle Grade Nonfiction

Code Cracking for Kids: Secret Communications Throughout History, with 21 Codes and Ciphers (2019) by Jean Daigneau

Karina Garcia's Next-Level DIY Slime (2018) by Karina Garcia

Spies, Code Breakers, and Secret Agents: A World War II Book for Kids (2020) by Carole P. Roman

The Ultimate Book of Scavenger Hunts: 42 Outdoor Adventures to Conquer with Your Family (2020) by Stacy Tornio

TIP:

Use Canva, Publisher, or your favorite design program to make the signs and/or maps. Vague maps can make the scavenger hunt more fun and challenging.

TIP:

Partner with Spanish-language agencies! This fun activity is perfect for outreach and community-building.

TIP:

Before the event, be sure to run it through with someone who did not write the instructions with you.

TIP:

Decide beforehand if you will collaborate with local businesses/organizations or assign your own volunteers to each station. Teens and older tweens make perfect volunteers for activities like this.

TIP:

Be mindful of any dangers in your potential outdoor space. For example, if participants will need to cross a busy road, place a volunteer crossing guard.

FIELD GUIDE TO YOUR LIFE

AGES

Teens 13–18

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Teens often feel like nobody understands them. This program lets them showcase their lives and unique personalities by creating field guides...to themselves! Tie this program to your community by encouraging teens to include the locations of their most formative moments, as well as people who have helped them along the way. This program is best suited to a passive program or a longer series in which teens work on specific elements every week. Alternatively, send them home with kits and activities to explore on their own. Suggested runtime: 60–90 minutes.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials to consider:

- Scrapbook paper
- Three-ring binders and folders
- Washi tape
- Cricut machine
- Printer and photo paper
- Whatever art supplies you have on hand

This program is highly customizable. If accepting digital submissions, no materials are required. If accepting paper submissions, you could distribute journals or field guide creation kits for teens to take home. Alternatively, set up a table in the teen section with supplies.

Preparation:

- Create a book list, display, LibGuide, or webpage about memoirs and how to write them, and/or traditional field guides.
- Create an instruction sheet for how to complete the field guide. The requirements can be as rigid or flexible as you like, or leave it open ended and see what you get!
- If part of a program series, choose a different prompt and specific materials for each session. Encourage teens to share their work and ideas with one another.
- Set a deadline for receiving field guide submissions. Consider a way to showcase the guides (with permission) once they are submitted, such as creating flip-through videos or holding a gallery opening at the library.

Outcomes:

- Teens will engage in self-reflection and practice expressing themselves in a multimodal format;
- Teens will be introduced to field guides and how they are used;

ADAPTATION:

For virtual field guides, consider holding a workshop on how to use a free design program (such as Inkscape, Photoscape X, Gravit, or Canva) as part of this program.

TIP:

This program could also include elements from the PLIX & CSLP: Spatial Poetry program, where teens map out their most important locations and/or rework place locations into a poem.



Image source: Shutterstock

TIP:

Consider reaching out to local artists, galleries, and schools.

TIP:

You could also kick off this program with a book-binding program where teens create their very own blank journals to house their field guides.

ARTS & CRAFTS | GAME/ACTIVITY | PASSIVE

- Teens will learn about memoirs and what the library has in the collection.

RESOURCES

Web

“Field Guides Made Easy” from Cornell Cooperative Extension: <https://bit.ly/3NJut1Q>

Books

Middle Grade Memoirs

Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round (2022) by Kathlyn J. Kirkwood and illustrated by Steffi Walthall

Be Prepared (2018) by Vera Brosgol (graphic novel)

Hurricane: My Story of Resistance (2021) by Salvador Gómez-Colón

This Is Your Time (2021) by Rube Bridges

Just Pretend (2021) by Tori Sharp (graphic novel)

Permanent Record (Young Reader's Edition) (2021) by Edward Snowden

Someone Like Me: How One Undocumented Girl Fought for Her American Dream (2018) by Julissa Arce

YA Memoirs

All Boys Aren't Blue (2020) by George M. Johnson

Almost American Girl (2020) by Robin Ha (graphic novel)

Apple: Skin to the Core (2020) by Eric Gansworth

Brave Face (2019) by Shaun David Hutchison

It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime (Adapted for Young Readers) (2019) by Trevor Noah

Ordinary Hazards (2019) by Nikki Grimes

Passport (2021) by Sophia Glock (graphic novel)

Reaching for the Moon (2020) by Katherine Johnson

Shout (2020) by Laurie Halse

Soaring Earth (2019) by Margarita Engle

YA Writers and Writing

Final Draft (2018) by Riley Redgate (F)

Find Your Voice: A Guided Journal for Writing Your Truth (2020) by Angie Thomas (NF)

Off the Record (2021) by Cameryn Garrett (F)

Teen Writer's Guide (2020) by Jennifer Jenkins (NF)

Write Your Own Poems (2019) by Jerome Martin (NF)

Printables

Field Guild to Your Life: Prompts (in English and Spanish)

FIELD GUIDE TO YOUR LIFE: PROMPTS

- Make a map of your life, your bedroom, or your town.
- Make a map of your bedroom or town.
- Make a graph of how you spend your time.
- List your top 10 favorite moments or places.
- List your top 10 favorite songs or musicians.
- List your top 10 favorite books or comics.
- Make a collage that represents your personal style.
- Make a collage out of found 2D objects.
- Make a collage out of items in your favorite color.
- Write yourself into the script of your favorite TV show or movie.
- If you were a superhero, who would you be? What would you do?
- Rank the games you play, from most to least favorite.
- Trace your hand and fill in the outline with poetry.
- Go for a walk around your neighborhood and record 10 observations
- Make a list of things you notice that other people do not.
- Draw a portrait of your family and your pets.
- What will your life look like in five years? Ten years?
- Draw your favorite dance moves with your eyes closed.
- If you could visit any country, where would you go and why?
- Who is your favorite teacher and why?
- Record yourself singing your favorite song.
- Make a digital mashup of your personal photos or videos.

GUÍA DE CAMPO PARA TU VIDA: INDICACIONES

- Haz un gráfico de cómo pasas tu tiempo.
- Haz una lista de tus 10 mejores momentos o lugares.
- Haz una lista de tus 10 canciones o músicos favoritos.
- Haz una lista de tus 10 libros o cómics favoritos.
- Haz un collage que represente tu estilo personal.
- Haz un collage con objetos 2D encontrados.
- Haz un collage con elementos de tu color favorito.
- Escríbete a ti mismo en el guión de tu programa de televisión o película favorita. Si fueras un superhéroe, ¿quién serías? ¿Qué harías?
- Clasifique los juegos que juega, de mayor a menor favorito.
- Traza tu mano y completa el contorno con poesía.
- Sal para caminar por tu vecindario y registra 10 observaciones
- Haz una lista de las cosas que notas que otras personas no notan.
- Dibuja un retrato de tu familia y tus mascotas.
- ¿Cómo será tu vida dentro de cinco años? ¿Diez años?
- Dibuja tus pasos de baile favoritos con los ojos cerrados.
- Si pudieras visitar cualquier país, ¿a dónde irías y por qué?
- ¿Quién es tu profesor favorito y por qué?
- Grábate cantando tu canción favorita.
- Haz un (mashup) tritura y pega digital de tus fotos o videos personales.

MULTIGENERATIONAL BRAINSTORM: COMMUNITY ART PROJECTS

Looking for some fresh ideas for community art projects? See the collaborative brainstorm from CSLP's manual committees below!

CHILDREN

- Sticker art. Using the annual CSLP Stick Together stickers from <https://letssticktogether.com>, children or teens who ask at the front desk get a few stickers to add to the sticker pixel puzzle. Alternatively, give out random stickers and see what patrons come up with, or prepare a “sticker by numbers” design for them to fill in with specific colors.
- Cupcake paint-along. During an in-person program, the librarian (or local artist) guides patrons step-by-step in how to paint a cupcake. Provide options for how participants can modify the paintings (e.g., different colors, frosting, or sprinkles). Optionally, let everyone snack on cupcakes (and provide options for those with food allergies). Display the cupcake art in the library for the summer. (See also Donuts and Art: A Perfect Pair on page 31.)
- Collaborative mural game. Prepare wall space for a mural; individuals (or teams) take turns adding their own touches. Avoid difficult-to-clean-up art supplies. If doing this indoors, remember drop cloths!
- Coloring quilts. Provide coloring sheets with quilt patterns (or other geometric patterns). Children color a square to add to a display in the children's section of the library. Or provide squares where children can write something nice about their best friend and decorate it as desired. Hang the finished squares together in a grid by punching holes along the sides of each square and tying them together with string. See Standalone Printables (page 243) for a geometric option.

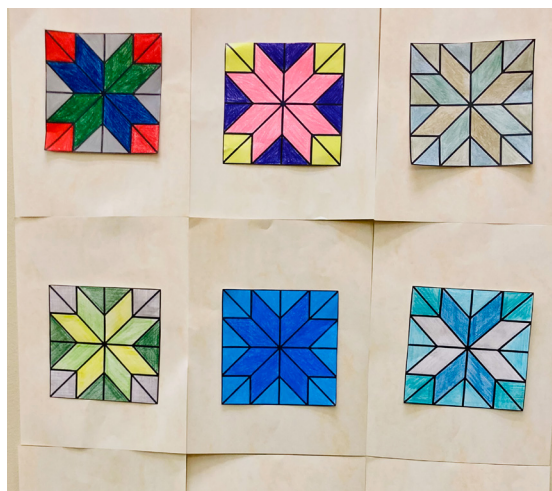


Image source: Lawren Dodson of Lafayette Public Library, Lafayette, LA.

TEENS

- Online literary magazine Teens submit art, writing, photography, etc. for the library to put online or compile into a printed zine. Tie submissions to your theme (or not). Here is an example using Flip Snack (<https://www.flipsnack.com/>) from the Spartanburg County Library in South Carolina: <https://bit.ly/3zAcZ3R>
- Bad art night. Invite teens for a bad art night. Have them create the worst art they possibly can around a given theme. Let them vote on the worst.

TIP:

See also The More We Paint Together on page 148; Chalk the Block with Kindness on page 183; and Grow, Evolve, Transform: Collaborative Origami Display on page 152.

TIP:

Maybe Something Beautiful / Quizás algo hermoso (2016) is a slightly older picture book (available in both English and Spanish editions) that makes an excellent companion to community art programs.

TIP:

If patrons cannot get enough of cupcakes, host a multigenerational cupcake decorating party! Cupcakes tend to motivate those who might not otherwise participate in an art program.

TIP:

For a passive community mural, select a theme and cover a wall with white or brown kraft paper. Invite families to sign up for a time slot to work on it together. The mural can be displayed all summer long.

MULTIGENERATIONAL

Optionally, run an informal discussion afterwards. Did they have fun making it? What makes art “bad?” Is there really any such thing?

- Digital word clouds. Choose a word for your theme—such as kindness, community, or friendship—and ask teens to submit words on a slip of paper. Have a volunteer screen the words before entering them digitally into Slido or Survey Monkey. Print out a giant version of the resulting word cloud to see which words were most popular.

MULTIGENERATIONAL

- Flickering “tree” art. Run string zig-zag across large library windows (or those of community partners), and invite patrons to use clothes pins to attach shipping tags they have decorated. Patrons can make art or write words; shipping tags are sturdy and come in various sizes. Be sure to make examples to elicit interest, and set up an art-making table near the tree. You could also send tags home with patrons so they can create art at home to bring back when they return their books. Optionally, set up a small fan in the window to keep the tags flickering. If you build a “tree” outside, be sure to use sturdy rope that laminate the artwork so it does not turn into litter before you take it down.
- Community squares. Give out squares, and ask community members to draw their favorite place in your community. Alternatively, provide take-and-make kits with art supplies and squares of paper or canvas. Hang them up together during a community event.
- Give patrons a large (10–12-inch) blank jigsaw puzzle piece made of watercolor paper, butcher paper, or cardstock. Individuals return their decorated puzzle piece to the library, where it will be interlocked and displayed.
- To promote local businesses, provide them mini canvases and host a tiny art gallery of their work. At the end of the summer, hold an art auction and donate the proceeds to the organization of your choice.
- Paper quilts. Provide 8 x 8-inch canvases or poster board to library patrons. Let them paint, collage, or decorate them. Alternatively, ask them to decorate them using only materials you provide, such as uniform squares and triangles in different colors. This also makes a good passive program for adults while their children are engaged in other programming. Once you have gathered your quilt squares, donate the grid to a local nursing home or hospital.
- Quilting parties. If you have an adult quilting club, request that they work together to create a library-wide quilt. Invite community members to quilting sessions where the quilters teach basic techniques. Consider partnerships with senior centers to find and engage quilters.



Image source: Janet Reynolds of Library District #2 of Linn County in La Cynge, KS

BOOK:

Consider *The Creative Instigator's Handbook: A DIY Guide to Making Social Change Through Art* (2022) by Leanne Prain.

TIP:

Community art programs are ideal outreach opportunities! Send art-making kits to new organizations, or table at community events with examples.

TIP:

Ask your local newspaper to photograph your community art projects and/or publicize their launch

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

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!

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials for mystery boxes:

- Blank recipe cards
- Instructions (with deadline)

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.

CAPTURING KINDNESS: TEEN VIDEO CHALLENGE

AGES

Teens 13–18

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Teens love making short-form videos, so why not harness their passion and creativity by challenging them to a video contest on the theme of friendship and kindness? Teens can make videos during an in-person program or on their own time. The more comedic and innovative their entries, the better. Judge the entries, or ask the library's social media followers to vote on the best ones. Provide cash prizes or other teen-motivating awards. Screen videos at an end-of-summer event, and post winning videos on your library's social media accounts. Suggested runtime: 90–120 minutes for an in-person program.

Challenge ideas:

- Make videos about helping others or catching kindness in action.
- Work together to create videos related to any theme.
- Create and record a skit, or record yourself doing something kind to edit later.
- Make a Zoomie in the library (a film created using Zoom footage).
- Add categories for animation or stop-motion.
- For large groups, divide teens into teams that include screenwriters, actors, editors, and marketers.
- Combine with a TikTok Dance Challenge on page 93.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

For a virtual program

- Zoom or Discord for a virtual meeting
- Free screenwriting and video-editing software (or teens can use the editing software built in to their social media platforms).
- Google Drive, Dropbox, or flash drives for transferring videos
- Examples skits and videos

For a screening event

- Projector/screen and speakers
- Audience chairs
- Incentives for winners



Image source: CSLP

NOTE:

CSLP's Teen Video Challenge will no longer be coordinated nationally, but you can still run the program at your local library!

ADAPTATION:

Start a film club for teens to share their process and learn from each other. Invite local filmmakers to share tips, or invite a coder to help teens apply basic Javascript. Club members submit their videos to the challenge at the end of the summer!

TIP:

Be sure to include captions for the videos. While some platforms auto-generate captions, be sure to read through them beforehand to ensure accuracy.

TIP:

Set up a recording studio for teens who need a quiet place to do voice-overs.



Image source: Shutterstock

PASSIVE | STEM

Preparation:

- Make sure to account for teens who do not have devices. Let them use library devices or have groups of teens work together (with at least one device per group).
- Confirm your institution's social media policy and photo release policy. Do you need permission to post photos or videos of teens? Does your library "own" the content once posted?
- Decide how you will check to ensure that teens make appropriate content.
- Decide how long the program or contest will last. Will it be a two-hour program in which teens hang out, share ideas, and make quick videos to share with each other? Or a longer contest that allows for more polished content that can be used to promote your library and programming?
- Make a funny, cringey video, and challenge them to do better!

Suggested rules. Videos must

- Be no longer than 60 seconds.
- Promote public libraries and reading.
- Be appropriate for viewing by audiences of all ages (rated G)
- Adhere to copyright laws.
- Interpret the theme of friendship and kindness, and include the slogan "All Together Now! ¡¡Todos juntos ahora!"

Free video-editing apps to consider

- Splice (for iPhone and iPad)
- Stop Motion Studio (for animations)
- iMovie (free software in the Mac suite)
- Windows 10 Photo App (basic software for PC users)
- OpenShot (free and open source)
- VidCode (teaches Javascript for modifying videos [advanced])

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly. For an in-person program, extra staff or volunteers are helpful to assist with tech troubleshooting and ensure that the video content is appropriate.

RESOURCES**Web**

Previous CSLP Teen Video Challenge winners: <https://bit.ly/3zrz7dB>
 Writer Duet (software) for budding screenwriters: <https://www.writerduet.com/>

Fiction About YouTubers/Social Media

Fame, Fate, and the First Kiss (2019) by Kasie West

TIP:

Encourage teens to make use of current trends and memes. Ask them to make what they would want to see on the home pages of their favorite apps.

TIP:

Require participants to submit model release forms for each person who appears in their video (see Resources).

TIP:

Judging metrics to consider: Most creative, best cinematography, clearest message, most inspirational, funniest, best overall impact, best dialogue, etc.

TIP:

To stay on top of current trends, search for "YA booktubers" to find creators on YouTube and "YA booktok" for creators on TikTok before the program. Francina Simone is one a popular longstanding YA booktuber: <https://bit.ly/39wVZRn>.

TIP:

See also TikTok Dance Class on page 93.

PASSIVE | STEM

From Twinkle, with Love (2018) by Sandhya Menon
The Gravity of Us (2020) by Phil Stamper
Going Off Script (2019) by Jen Wilde
Nothing More to Tell (2022) by K.M. McManus
Now a Major Motion Picture (2018) by Cori McCarthy
One of the Good Ones (2021) by Maika Moulite and Maritza Molulite

Filmmaking Nonfiction

Gofers: On the Front Lines of Film and Television (2020) by Daniel Scarpatti (adult NF)
My Life as a YouTuber (2020) by Janet Tashjian and Jake Tashjian (middle grade NF)
TikTok for Dummies (2021) by Jesse Stay (YA NF)

Printables

Teen Video Challenge Model Release Form

MODEL RELEASE FORM FOR PUBLICATION AND VIDEO PURPOSES FOR THE TEEN VIDEO CHALLENGE

Each person who submits a video or appears in a video must sign a release.

This release is between the undersigned _____ and binds both parties' heirs, successors, representatives and assigns.

Subject of Release. "Material" refers to all video, images, photographs, mixed media, music, text and other forms of copyrighted material that I supply to _____.

License. I grant _____ a perpetual, royalty-free license to use, reproduce, edit, distribute, publish, prepare derivative works, display, and perform the Material in any media form to fulfill the library's mission.

Name and Likeness. I grant _____ a perpetual, royalty-free license to use my name and likeness, image, voice in the Material as well as my biographical information for advertising, publicity, trade or any other lawful purpose related to fulfilling the library's mission.

No 3rd Party Copyrighted Material. I agree that the Material I submit does not include any copyrighted material belonging to someone else unless it is in the public domain.

No Obligation to Use and No Right to Review. I understand that _____ is under no obligation to use the Material. I understand that I do not have a right to inspect and approve the finished product or such written or spoken copy used in connection with the finished product.

Consideration. I understand and agree that the sole consideration offered by _____ is the evaluation of the Material for its potential use, and acknowledge the receipt and adequacy of this consideration.

I understand and agree:

Your Name (printed or typed) _____

Your Address _____

Your Email _____ Your Age _____

Your Signature _____ Date _____

Your Telephone No. _____

Parent or Guardian's Consent is also required, if the person appearing in the Material is under eighteen (18) years of age. I am the parent or legal guardian of the minor named above. I, on behalf of the minor, agree to all provisions of the Release.

Signed _____ Date _____

Name (printed or typed) _____

Telephone No. _____ E-mail _____

TRANSLATION: BOOKMARKS FOR ALL

AGES

Children 5+

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program is about brightening others' days in multiple languages! What languages are spoken in your community? Translate some common words and phrases related to friendship and kindness into each of those languages. Print them onto bookmarks, and let patrons decorate them. Bookmarks can be part of a take one/give one project, or you can place them in books at checkout. Suggested runtime: 45 minutes for an in-person program.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Bookmark templates with quotes about friendship or reading (consider making black and white designs in Canva)
- Plain cardstock in light colors
- Scissors or paper cutter
- Crayons, markers, colored pencils, etc.
- Hole punch and ribbon/string (optional)
- Laminator (optional)

Preparation: Be sure to make a few examples so children can visualize the project before putting their own spin on it. If using Canva, choose a letter-sized template and divide the page into four equal sections with the outline tool. Type out some short friendship quotes (with their attributions), and print out your designs. Be sure to also provide blank bookmarks for those who want creative freedom.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly.

RESOURCES

Printables

Friendship Quotes

TIP:

Set out both blank bookmarks and preprinted designs so patrons of all ages can decorate according to their ability.

TIP:

Accompany this passive program with a book and movie display that features positive friend relationships (or friends from different cultural backgrounds).

ADAPTATION:

For maximum simplicity, provide bookmarks in English and Spanish.

ADAPTATION:

For teens, provide a list of phrases in different languages and let them choose which ones to use into their designs. They hide finished bookmarks in their favorite books. This is also a great program for directing teens to your library's language-learning resources.

FRIENDSHIP QUOTES

“The only way to have a friend is to be one.” -**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

“I would rather walk with a friend in the dark than alone in the light.” -**Helen Keller**

“No person is your friend who demands your silence or denies your right to grow.” -**Alice Walker**

“I don’t need a friend who changes when I change and who nods when I nod; my shadow does that much better.” -**Plutarch**

“There is nothing I would not do for those who are really my friends. I have no notion of loving people by halves, it is not my nature.” -**Jane Austen**

“Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born.” -**Anaïs Nin**

“The best mirror is an old friend.” -**George Herbert**

“Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another: “What! You too? I thought I was the only one.” -**C.S. Lewis**

“Don’t walk behind me; I may not lead. Don’t walk in front of me; I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend.” -**Albert Camus**

“You can’t stay in your corner of the forest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes.” -**A.A. Milne**

“A friend is someone who knows all about you and still loves you.” -**Elbert Hubbard**

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 *Twinkl* (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

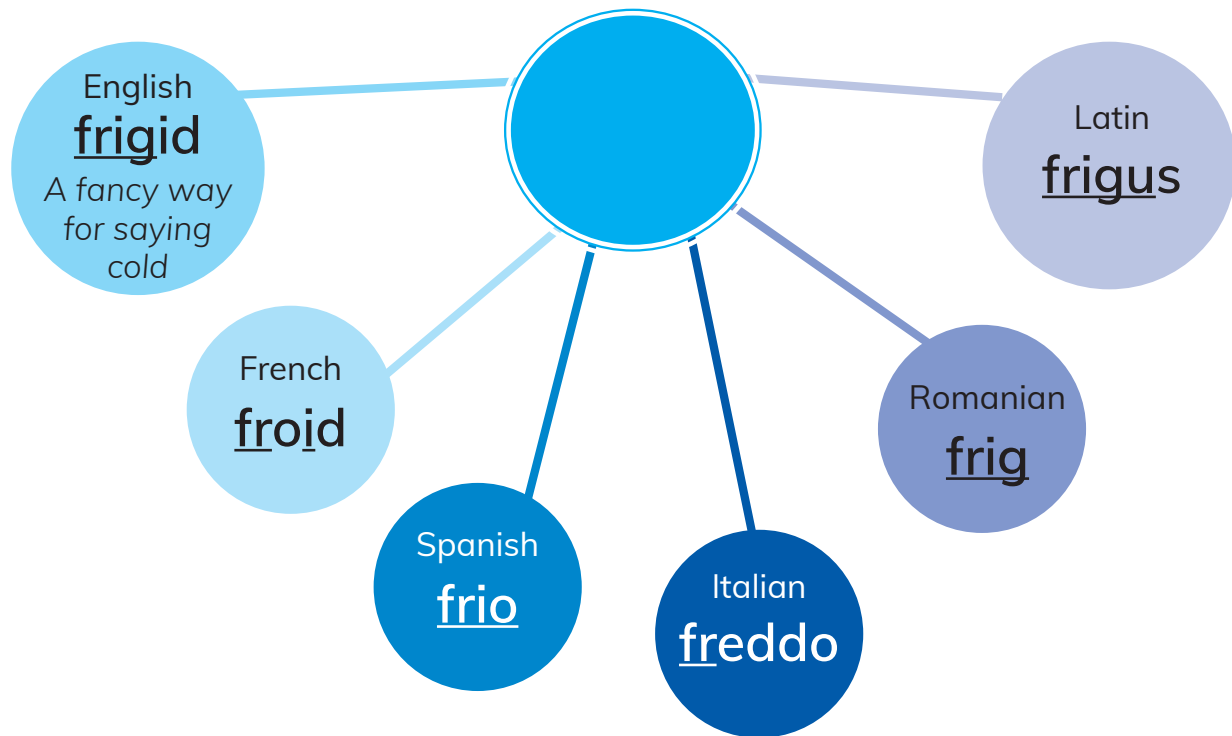
Once Upon a Word: A Word-Origin Dictionary for Kids: Building Vocabulary Through Etymology, Definitions and Stories (2020) by Jess Zafarris

What a Wonderful Word (2018) by Nicola Edwards

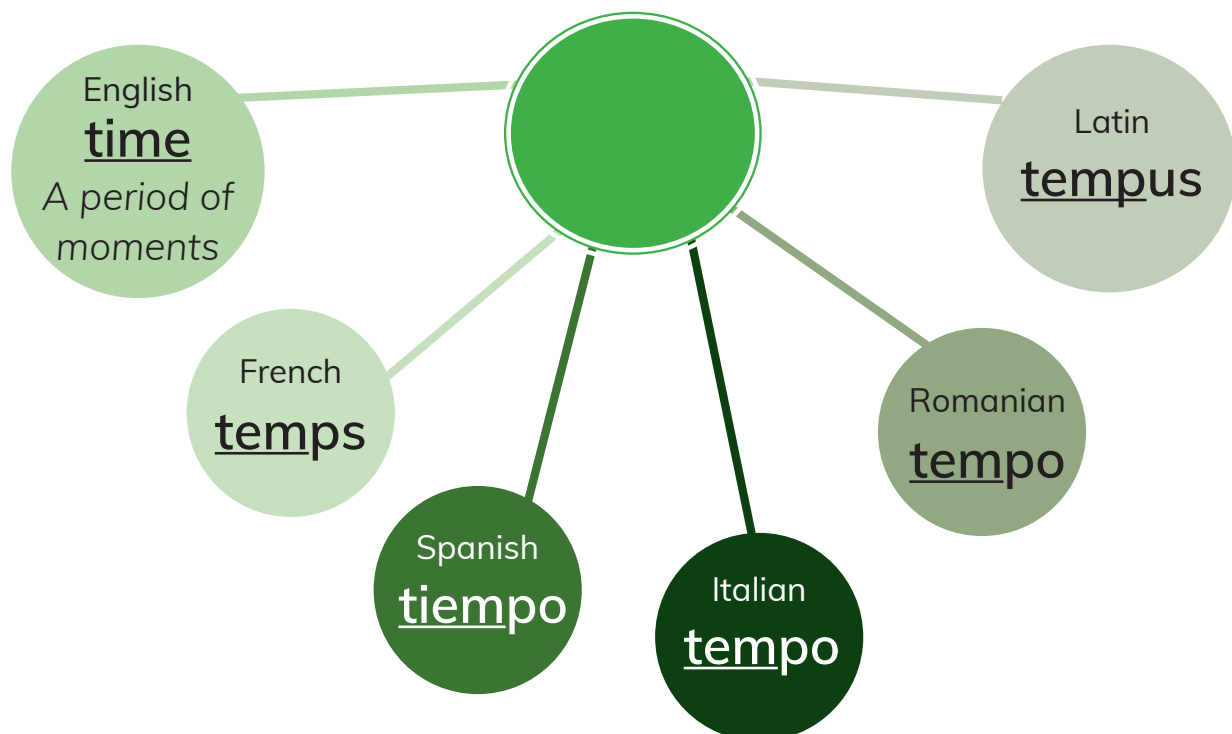
Printables

Language Trees for "Cold" and "Time"

LANGUAGE TREE FOR “COLD”



LANGUAGE TREE FOR “TIME”



DIY MUSIC MAKERS

AGES

Children 5–8

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A program that celebrates DIY music-making of all kinds! To make music using their bodies, encourage children to clap, tap, and sing. This program also provides a few craft ideas for DIY musical instruments—jingle sticks, kazoos, and harmonicas—that can be made out of common household items such as cardboard, rubber bands, and pipe cleaners. Make them in the library or prepare take-and-make kits. If you run these stations in the library, be sure to hold a jam session with the finished instruments! Suggested runtime: 45–60 minutes.

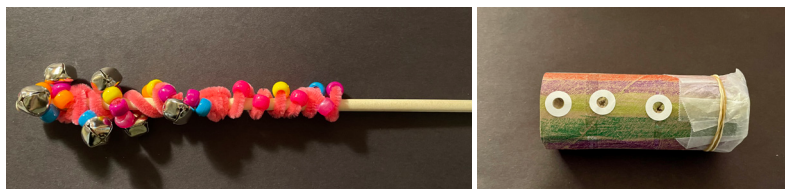


Image Source: Azita Frattarelli of Riverview Veterans Memorial Library, Riverview, MI

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Jingle Sticks

Materials:

- Dowel rods, popsicle sticks, or pencils
- Pipe cleaners
- Glue or duct tape (optional)
- Jingle bells
- Optional: Art supplies to decorate the stick.

Assembly:

- First, decorate the dowel rod, if desired.
- String two–six jingle bells onto a pipe cleaner, making sure to leave room the top and bottom.
- Wrap the pipe cleaner around the dowel rod, twisting and securing at the top and bottom. Glue or duct tape to secure it is optional.
- Twist and secure additional chenille stems with jingle bells onto the dowel rod if desired.



Image Source: Azita Frattarelli of Riverview Veterans Memorial Library, Riverview, MI

Kazoos

Materials:

TIP:

For another simple instrument craft, see the mini maraca craft on page 113.

TIP:

See Instruments Across Borders on page 114 for another music program idea.

TIP:

Play music amongst the stacks! Or have musicians perform at a central point, then scatter the stations throughout the library.

ADAPTATION:

Provide materials for participants to invent their own instruments, such as boxes, rubber bands, and other recycled materials.

ADAPTATION:

For older patrons, make more complex instruments. See *Making Poor Man's Guitars* (2018) by Shane Speal for a solid project example.

TIP:

If you prepunch kazoo holes, tell children not to cover the holes with their decorations.

ARTS & CRAFTS | GAME/ACTIVITY | PASSIVE

- Cardboard tubes, such as toilet paper rolls paper towel rolls cut in half
- Rubber bands
- Wax paper
- Scissors
- Sharp pencil or other object to poke holes
- Optional: Art supplies to decorate the tube

Assembly:

- First, decorate the cardboard tube, if desired.
- Cover the end of the cardboard tube with a piece of wax paper and secure with a rubber band.
- If using a toilet paper roll, poke one or two holes in the middle of the tube about 1-inch apart. If using a paper towel roll, poke two or three holes in the middle of the tube about 2-inches apart.

Harmonicas

Materials:

- Two jumbo popsicle sticks per harmonica
- One wide rubber band per harmonica
- Two small rubber bands per harmonica
- Plastic (or strong paper) straws cut into 1-inch pieces
- Scissors

Assembly:

- Cut straw into two 1-inch pieces.
- Wrap the wide rubber band lengthwise around one popsicle stick.
- Tuck one straw piece under the rubber band on one end of the popsicle stick.
- Place the other piece of straw on top of the rubber band on the other end of the popsicle stick.
- Place the remaining popsicle stick on top lengthwise and wrap small rubber bands around each end of the popsicle sticks.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

If running all three stations, you will need an extra volunteer or staff member at each station.

RESOURCES

Web

DIY jingle sticks video [4 min] from Craft2Care on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3OdKgG3>

Kazoo tutorial from Today's Parent: <https://bit.ly/3mODP0I>

"Popsicle Harmonica" from C.S. Mott Children's Hospital: <https://bit.ly/3xP-wXWW>

TIP:

Collect cardboard tubes from staff in the weeks leading up to the program.



Image Source: Azita Frattarelli of Riverview Veterans Memorial Library, Riverview, MI



Image Source: Azita Frattarelli of Riverview Veterans Memorial Library, Riverview, MI

Music Picture Books

How to Build an Orchestra (2020) by Mary Auld and illustrated by Elisa Paganelli

Music Is in Everything (2022) by Ziggy Marley and illustrated by Ag Jatkowska

The Oboe Goes Boom, Boom, Boom (2020) by Colleen A.F. Venable and illustrated by Lian Cho

Plinka Plinka Shake Shake (2019) by Emma Garcia

When Julia Danced Bomba / Cuando Julia Bailaba Bomba (2019) by Raquel M. Ortiz and illustrated by Flor de Vita

GIANT FLOOR CROSSWORD

AGES

Children 5–8

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Children work together to solve a giant crossword puzzle! The words are all activities they can do together, so encourage them to act out each one. Use a combination of visual clues (such as pictures of each activity) and written clues to accommodate varying ages and learning styles. Suggested runtime: 30 minutes for an in-person program.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Masking tape or painter's tape
- Printed letters and numbers (lamination recommended)
- Word bank and clues

Preparation:

- Tape a grid on the floor. Each square should be 8 x 8 inches to create a puzzle that is approximately 8.5 x 9 feet across. You can make smaller grids and letters if you have less space.
- Print out the letters (one per page) and numbers on cardstock, then cut them out and laminate them.
- Prepare a word bank (a list of all the words used in the crossword) on a poster or sheet of paper. Add clues (written or visual) for each word.
- Place a few of the letters on the floor ahead of time so children can easily figure out where each word goes.

Word bank: Play, sing, read, walk, run, jump, dance, work, eat, swim, sit, stand, sway, celebrate, laugh

Number of each letter needed: A(6), B(1), C(2), D(2), E(4), G(2), H(1), I(3), J(1), K(1), L(4), M(1), N(4), O(1), P(1), R(2), S(3), T(3), U(2), W(4), Y(2)

RESOURCES

Printables

Giant Crossword Answer Key

Online Exclusive: Crossword Letters and Numbers

TIP:

See the online exclusive printable for preformatted letters to print!

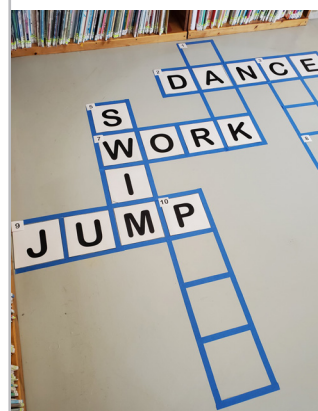
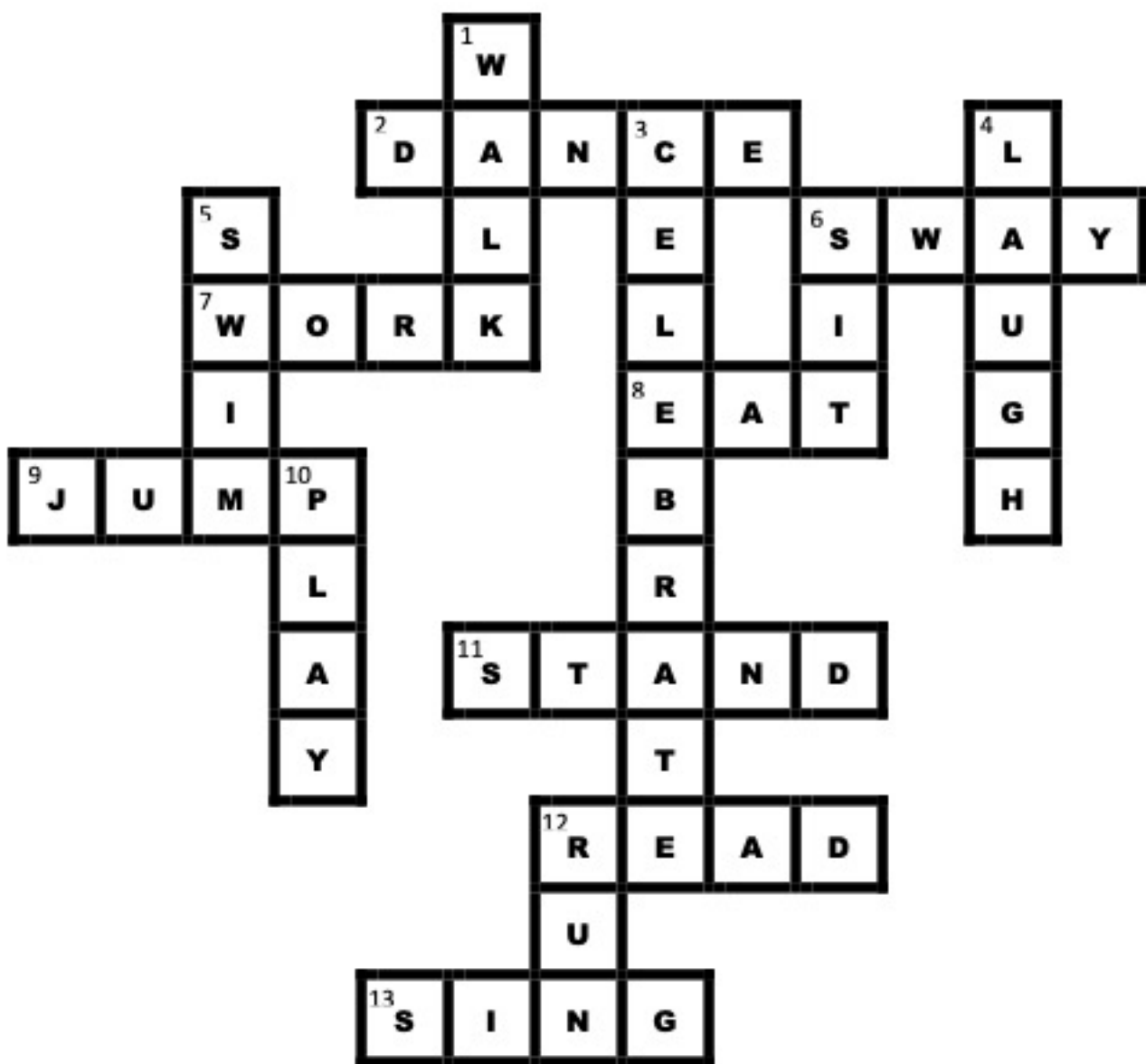
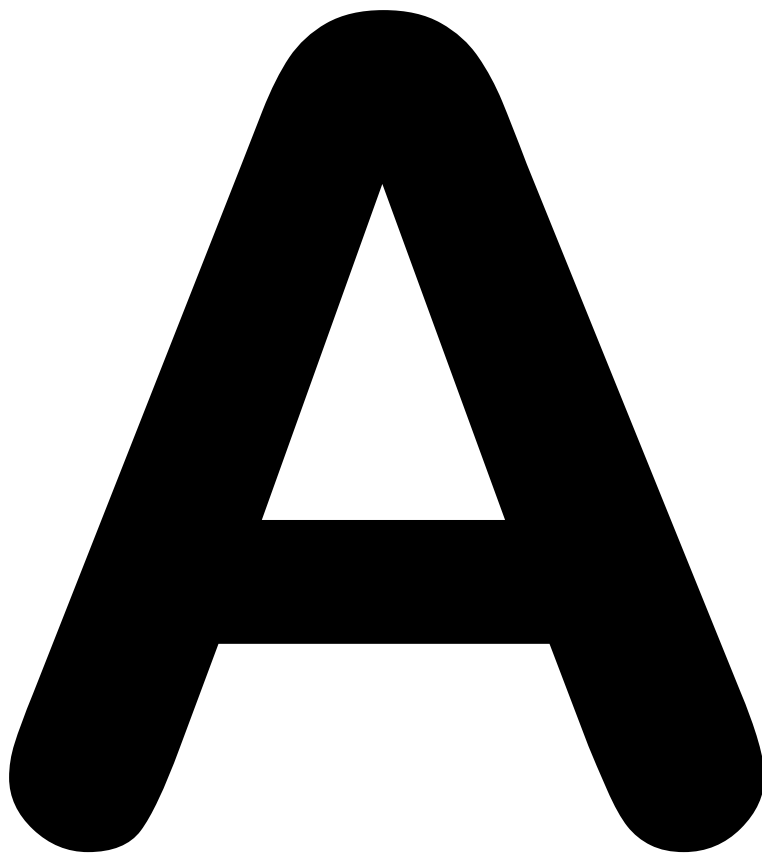


Image source: Vivian Sloan of Tuttle Library, Tuttle, OK

Printables courtesy of Vivian Sloan of Tuttle Library in Tuttle, OK.



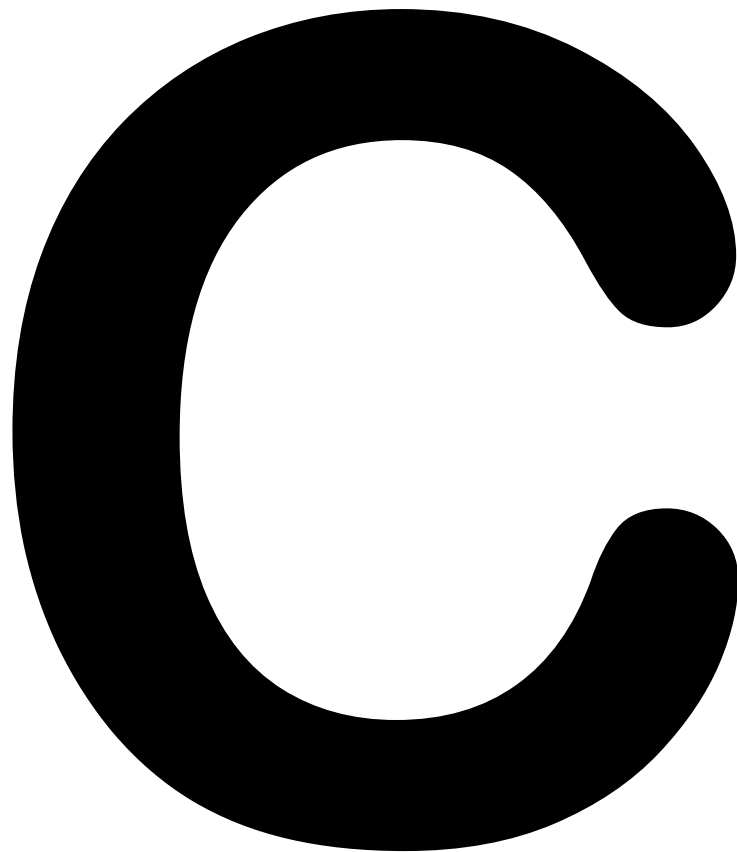
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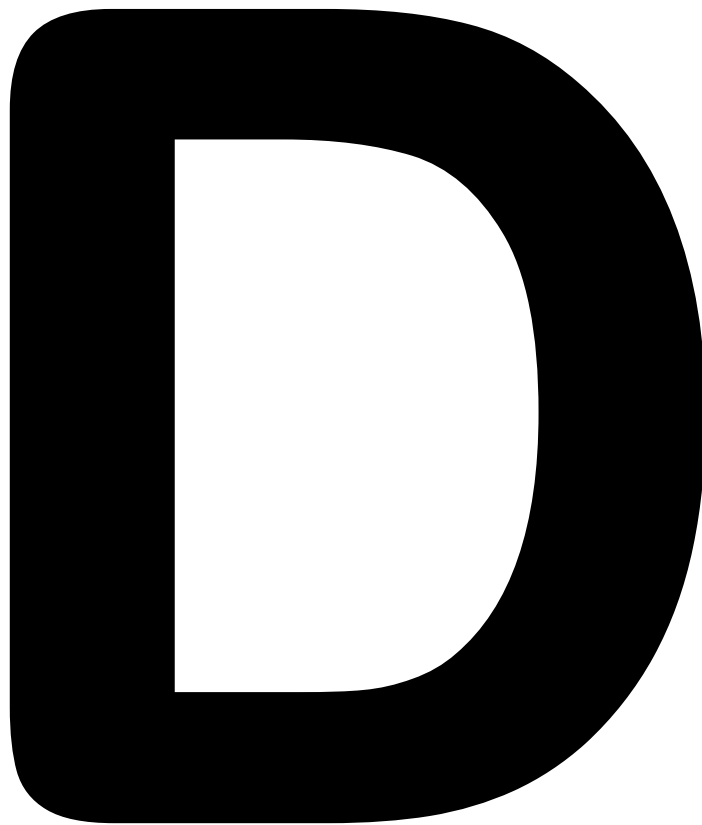
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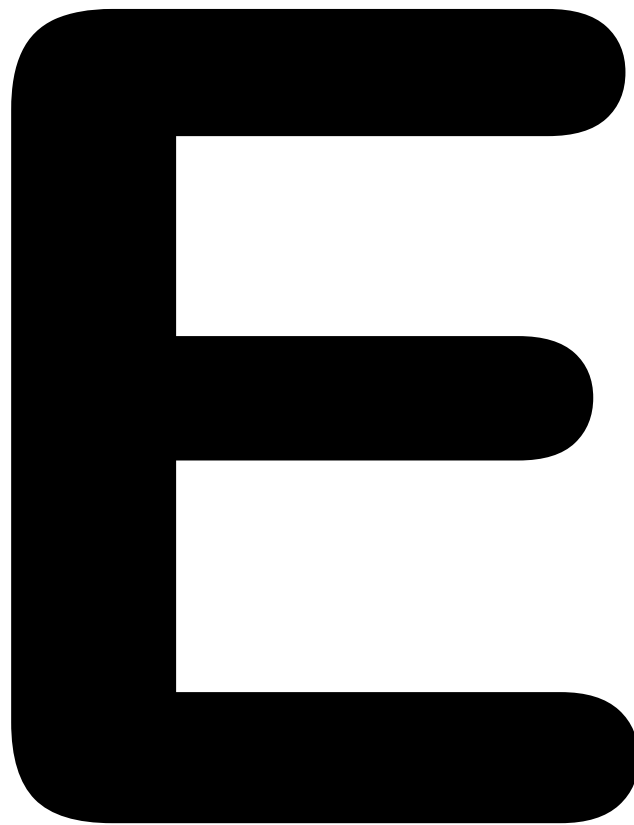
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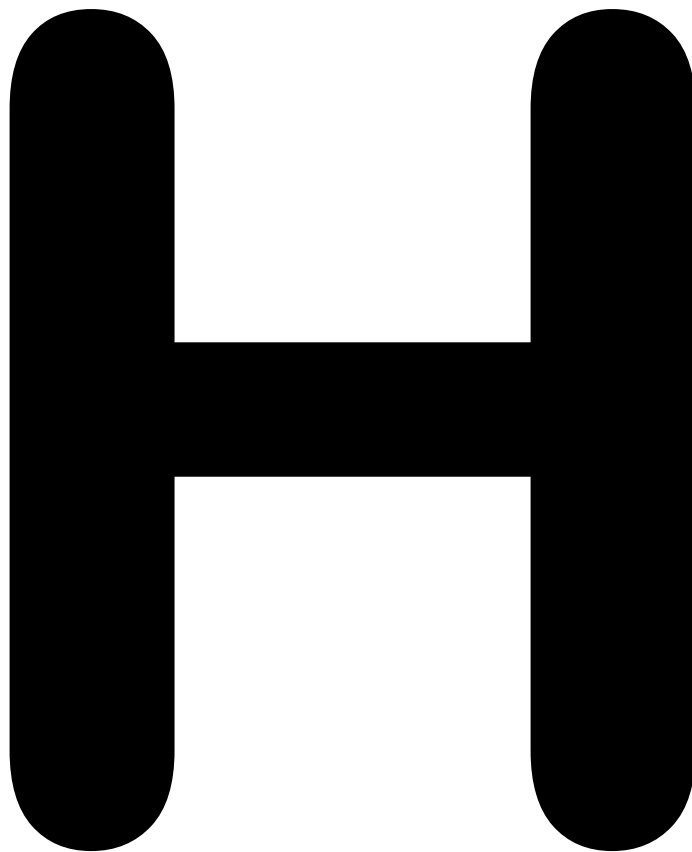
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A large, bold, black outline of the uppercase letter 'G' is centered within a square frame. The letter is designed for tracing or coloring, with a thick, uniform stroke. The square frame is also composed of a thick black line.

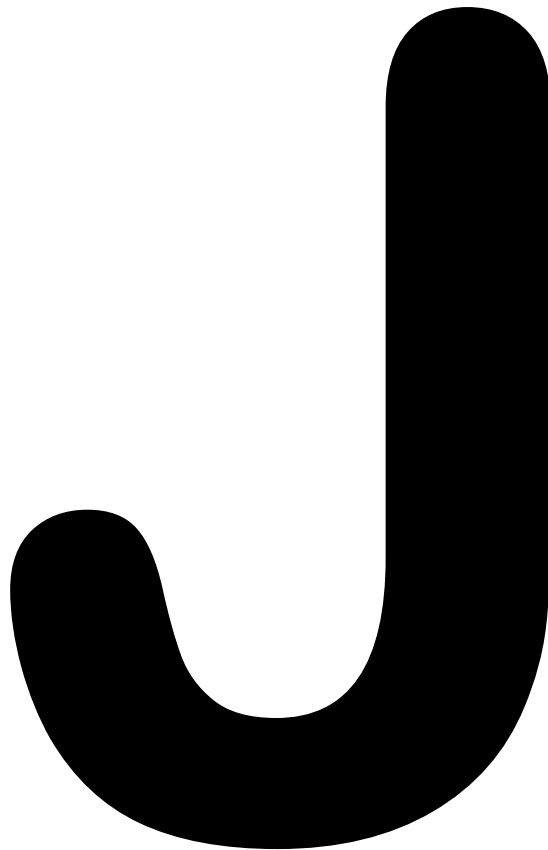
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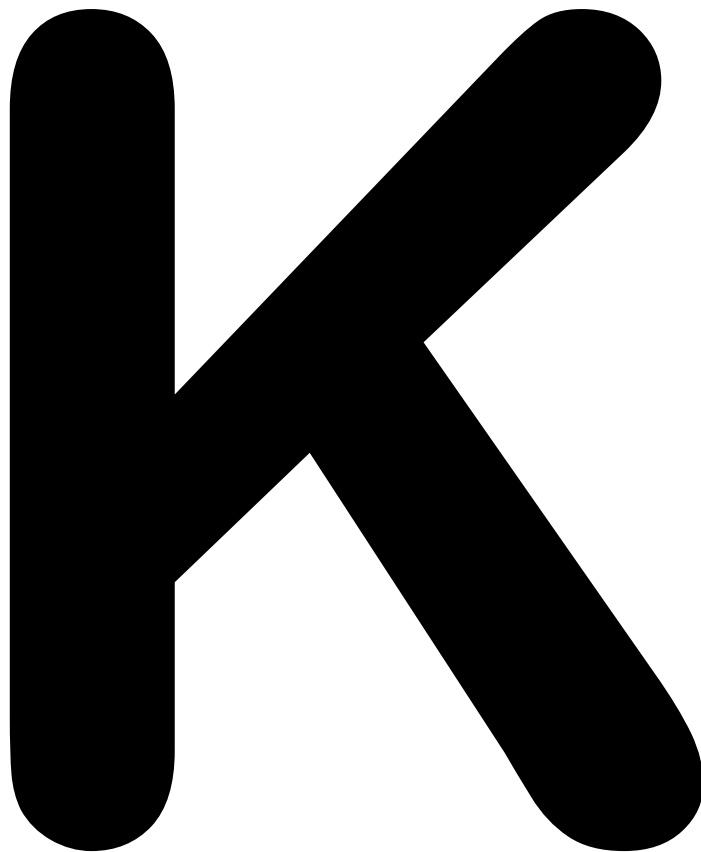
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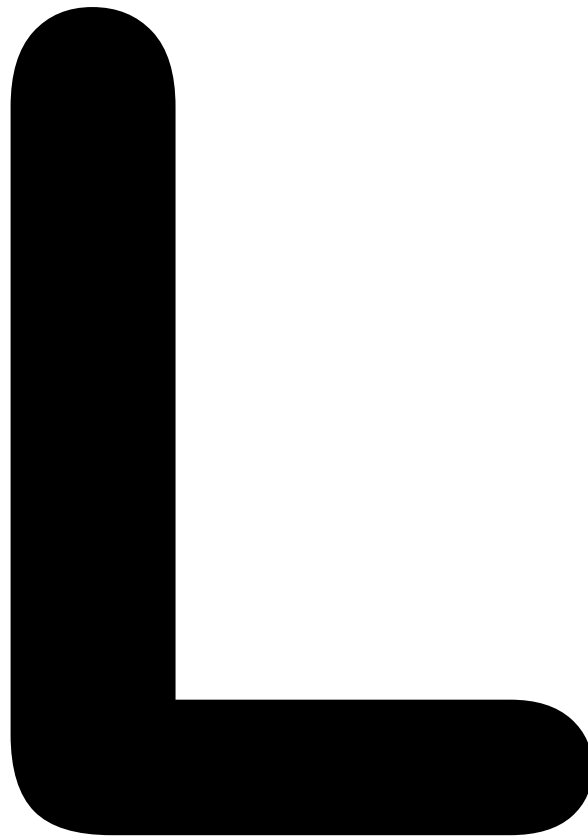
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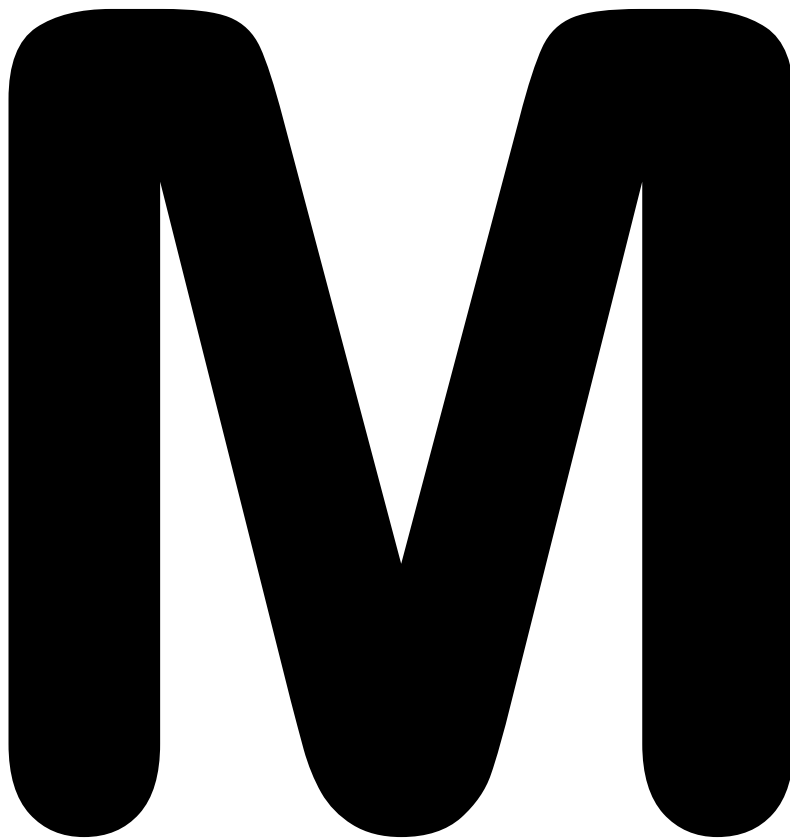
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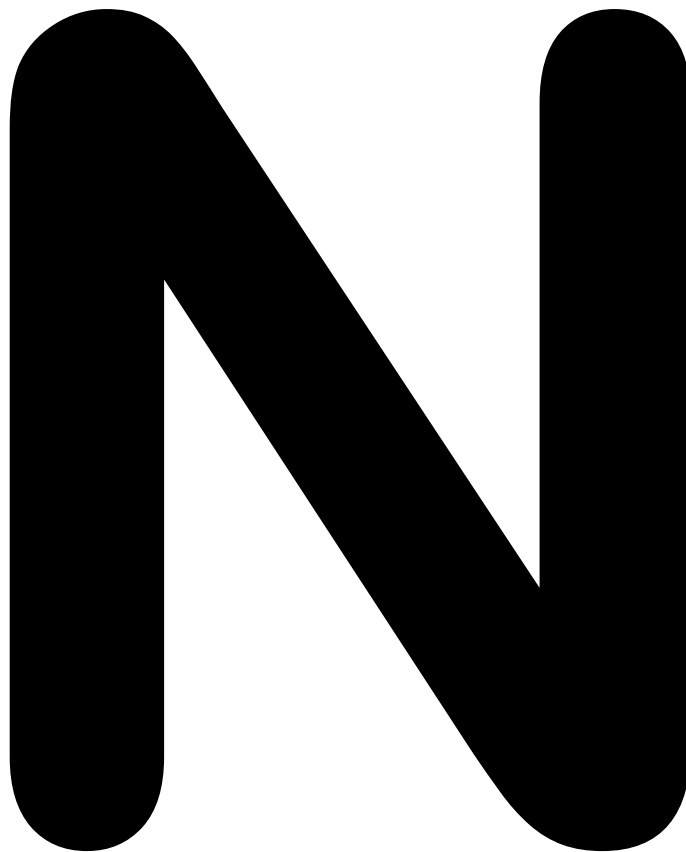
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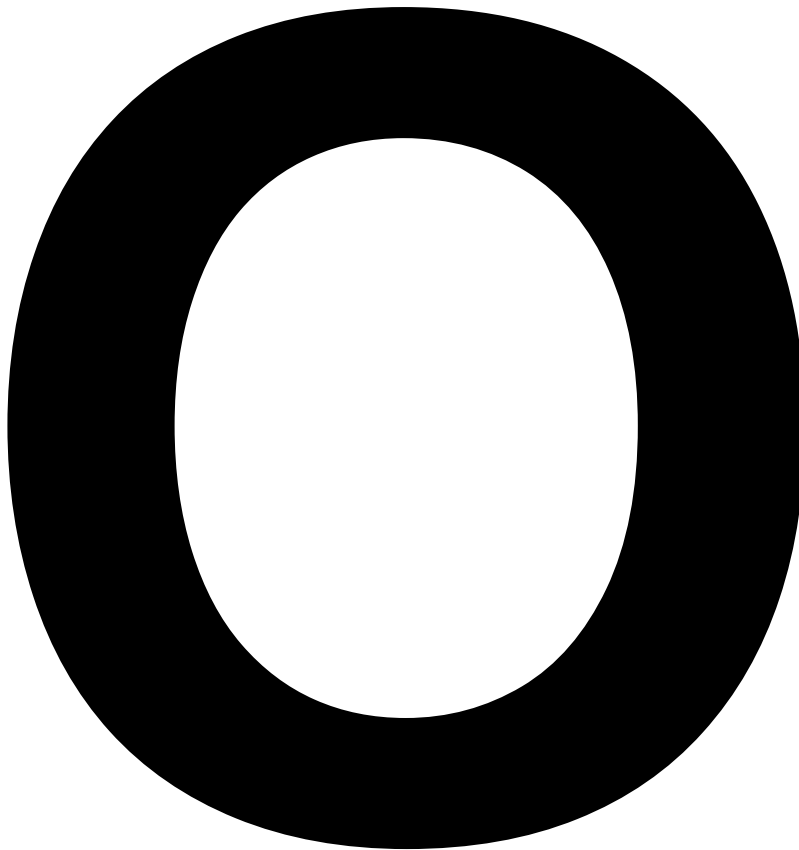
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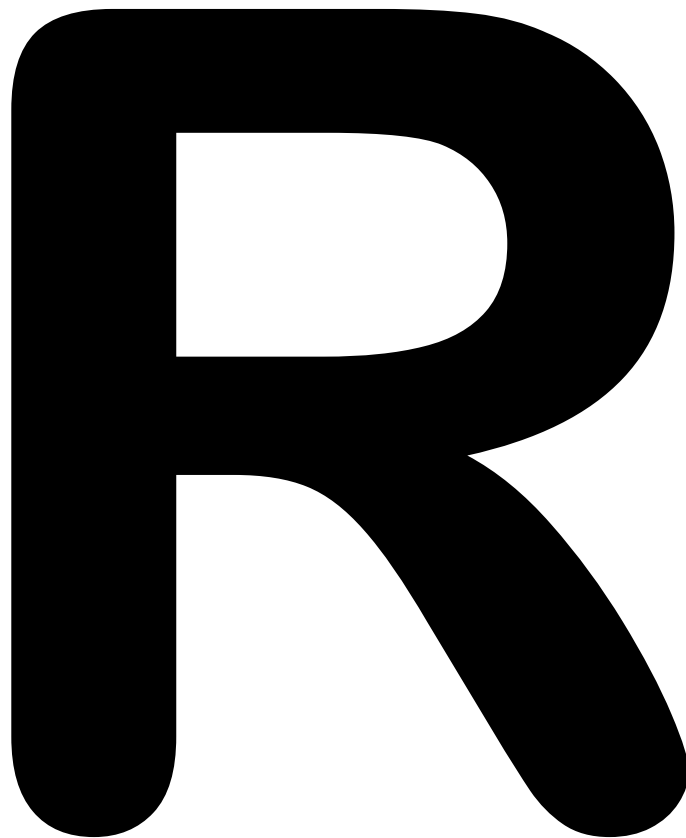
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P

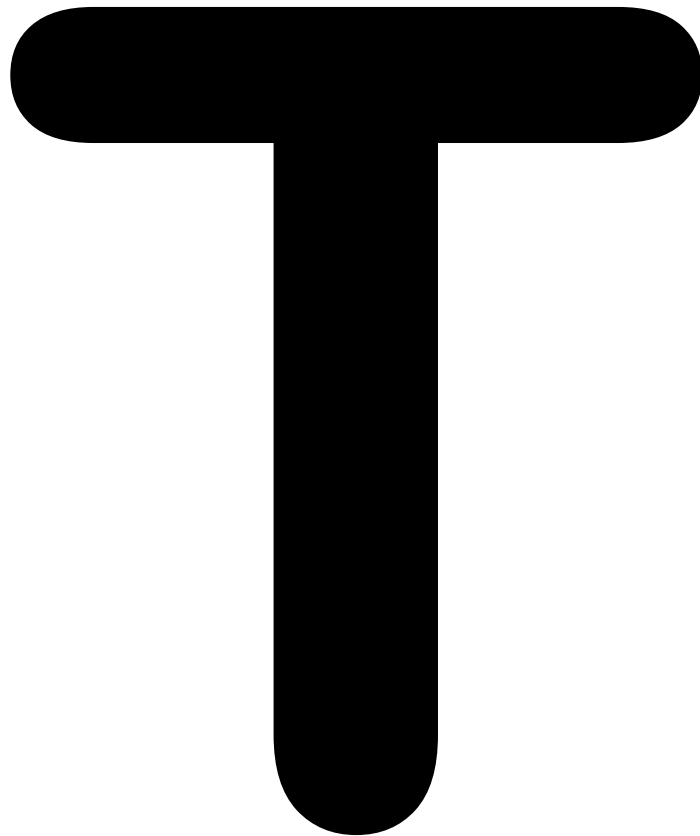
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A large, bold, black uppercase letter 'R' is centered within a square frame. The frame is composed of a thick black border. The letter 'R' is also in a bold, sans-serif font, with a thick vertical stem and a curved top and bottom arm.

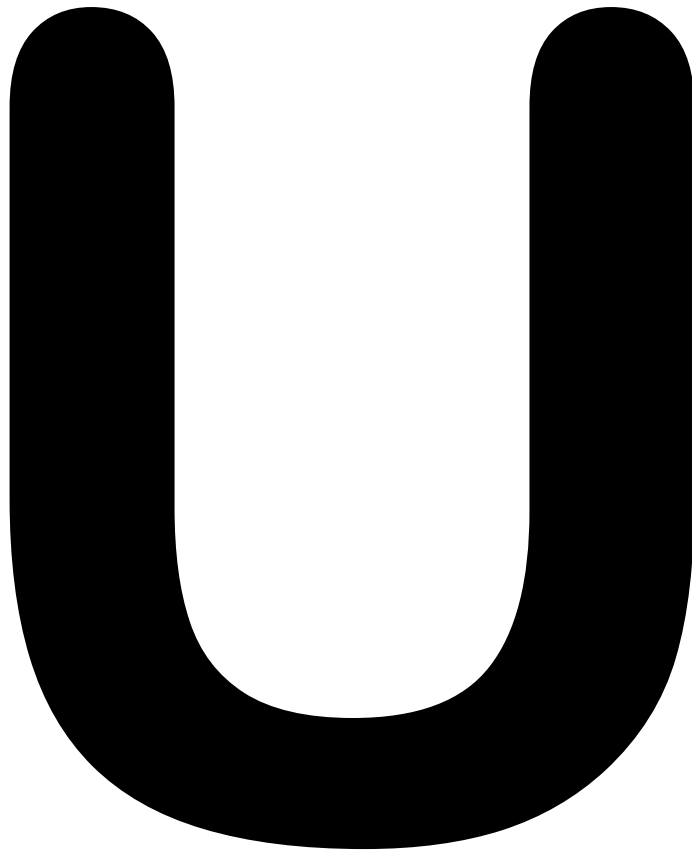
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1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13			

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.

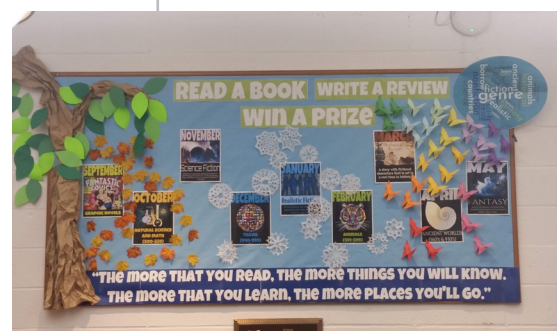


Image source: Marcia Literati, Tenafly Public Library, Tenafly, NJ.

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:

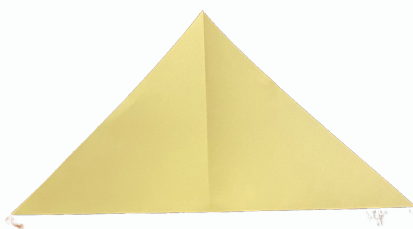
Search “butterfly bulletin boards” on Pinterest for design inspiration.

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



EASY ORIGAMI BUTTERFLY

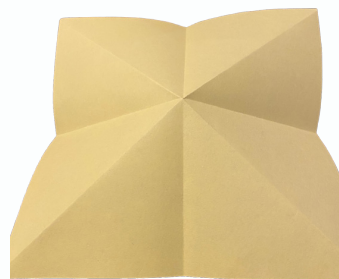
Start with a 6 x 6" piece of origami paper, or cut any paper to size.



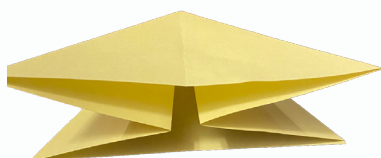
1 Fold diagonally. Open. Fold diagonally in the opposite direction. Open.



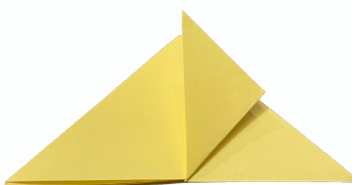
2 Flip paper over. Fold it in half. Open. Fold in half the other way. Open.



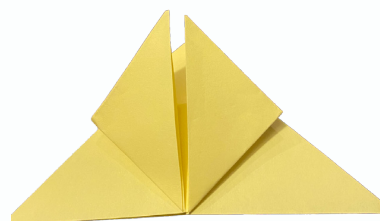
3 You will have diagonal "mountain" folds in the corners and "valley" folds in the center of each side.



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



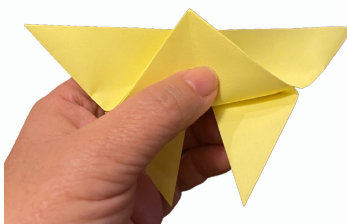
5 Fold one side point of the triangle to the center point.



6 Fold the second side point to the center point.



7 Flip paper over.



8 Curl the center point over the long edge.

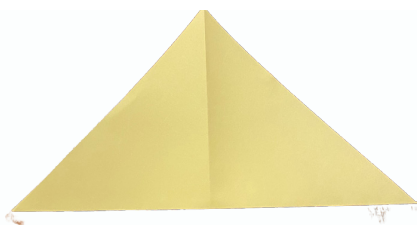


9 Fold the tip over the long edge. Pinch the wings together.



MARIPOSA DE ORIGAMI FÁCIL

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



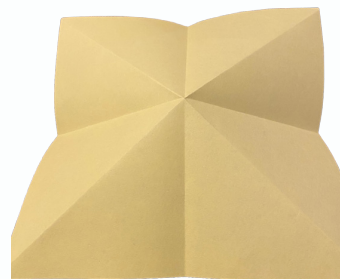
1

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



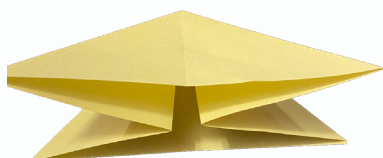
2

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



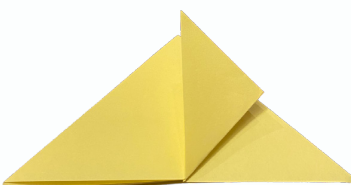
3

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



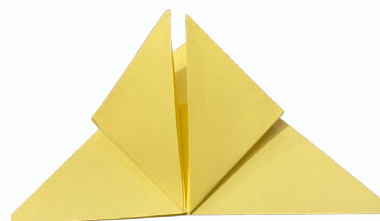
4

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.



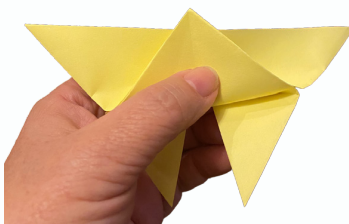
6

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.

LOVE BUG CLIPS CRAFT

AGES

Children 5–8

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Who can we show more kindness to? These love bug clips are a simple craft that children personalize and modify however they wish. Encourage them to clip their love bugs on a person of their choosing after they leave the library. You can begin this program with an age-appropriate picture book about kindness and a discussion about ways to be kind to each other, or use this craft as a filler. For a passive program, print instructions and set materials on a craft table (or create take-and-make bags with enough materials for one–two clips). Suggested runtime: 20–30 minutes.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Paper and a 2-inch heart punch or
- a heart template and scissors (see Printables)
- Pompoms, pipe cleaners cut into thirds, and googly eyes
- Clothespins
- White glue
- Markers, colored pencils, or crayons

Assembly:

- Cut out a paper heart (using a punch or template).
- Write a kind note on the heart.
- Wrap a pipe cleaner through the hole in the front of a clothespin, twisting it on top. This will be the bug's antennae.
- Glue two eyes on a large pompom for the bug's head.
- Glue the large pompom to the front end of the clothespin.
- Glue the small pompom behind the antennae to form the body.
- Glue the heart to the back of the clothespin to form the wings
- When the glue is dry, clip your love bug to someone you care about!

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly.

RESOURCES

ADAPTATION:

For younger children, use only one pompom for the head, no pipe cleaners, and provide glue dots. You could also prewrite the messages on the hearts for them, or allow them to draw on or color the hearts instead of a writing a message.

TIP:

Encourage children to have fun with the materials and come up with different looks for their love bug! As long as the bug expresses kind words to share with someone, the craft is a success.

TIP:

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



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

ARTS & CRAFTS | PASSIVE | LOW COST

Web

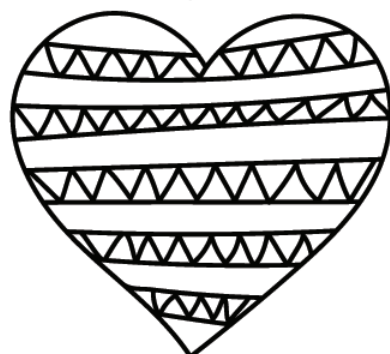
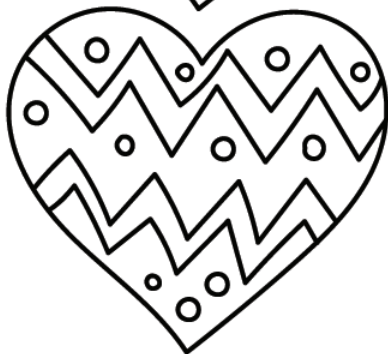
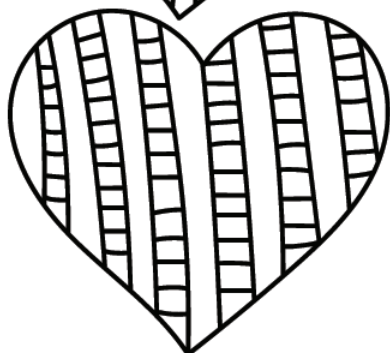
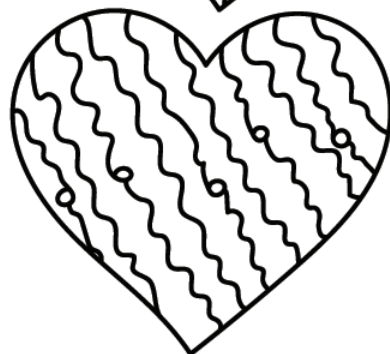
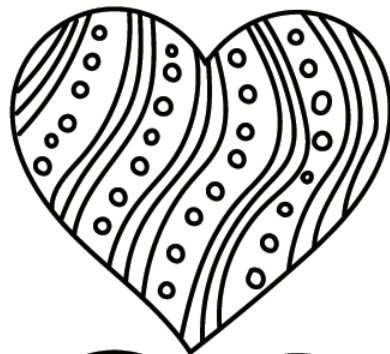
“The Power of Words” [3 min] from Common Sense Education on YouTube:

<https://bit.ly/3HCWN45>

“Dragon Fly Clothespins” from *Crafty Morning*: <https://bit.ly/3b4anBi>

Printables

Heart Template



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

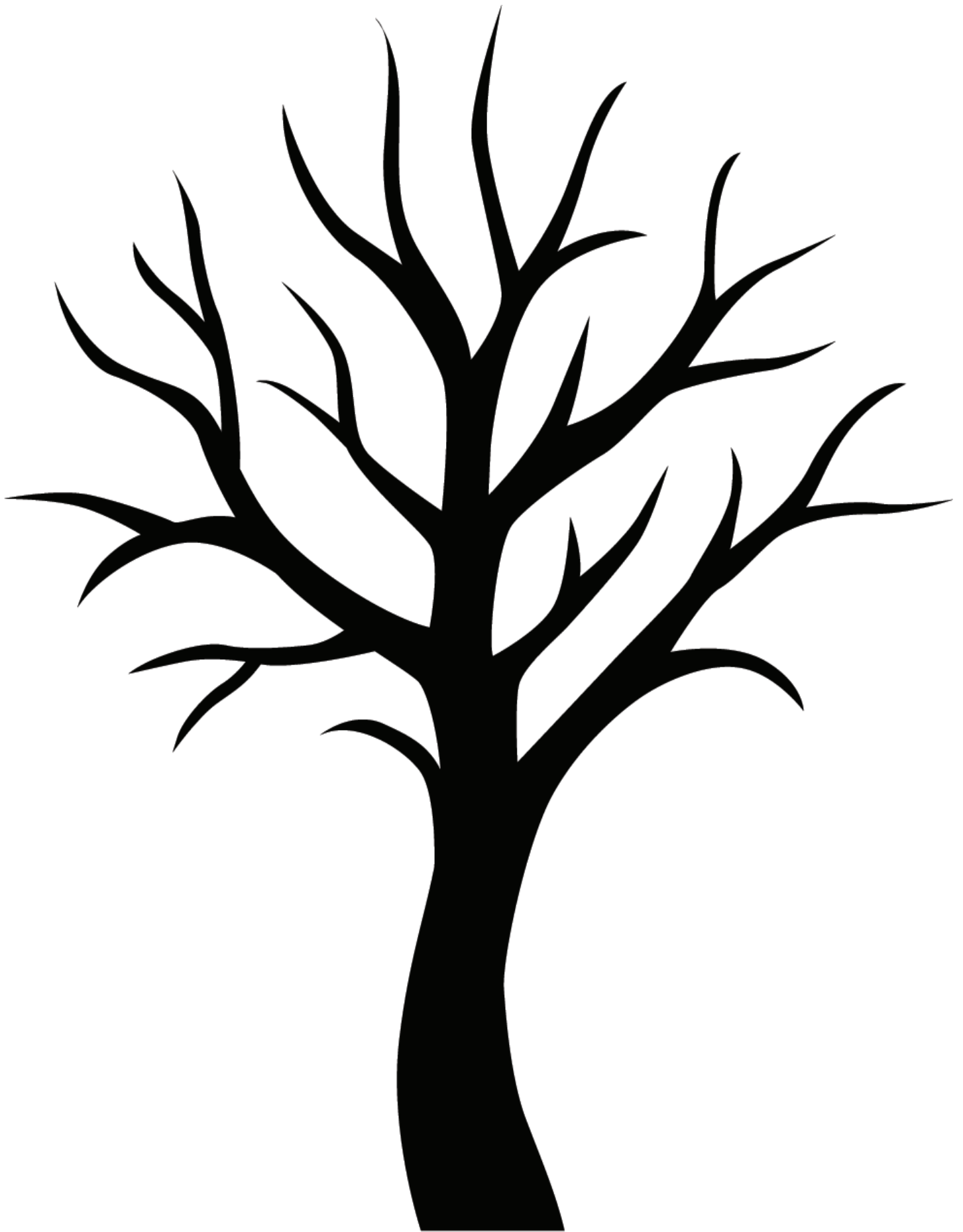
Kindness Tree Silhouette

Leaf Silhouettes

TIP:

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





SPREAD THE LOVE

AGES

Tweens 9–12

Teens 13–18

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

There are few things better than a nice surprise. In this program, tweens or teens write positive, uplifting messages to place in their favorite books (either YA books or books they liked when they were younger).

You can go simple by providing Post-its and markers, or you can use whatever paper and art supplies you have on hand. Be sure to make examples beforehand to kick things off. While crafting their messages, teens discuss their favorite books, watch videos, or listen to music. For a passive program, create a supply table with signage and examples. Be sure to require teens to submit their messages for approval before hiding them in books. Suggested runtime: 60 minutes.



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- A variety of art supplies
- Premade templates for those who do not want to draw
- A computer and printer for those who want to work digitally
- Spreadsheet to track which books have messages (optional)

Be sure to make a few example messages beforehand. They should be positive and cute, but not too young. Decide if you will track (anonymously) which books the teens select so they can see whether the messages/cards ever reach another reader.

RESOURCES

Web

Quotes from Random Acts of Kindness Foundation: <https://bit.ly/3tDFsBX>
 “What Is Kindness? Teens Respond” [4 min] from Random Acts of Kindness Foundation on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3Hvc2Mb>
 Art and books from The Latest Kate: <https://www.thelatestkate.art/>
 Teen kindness ideas from Channel Kindness: <https://bit.ly/3Qz9pgH>

Printables

Pride Icons

ADAPTATION:

Rather than hiding messages in books, you can also create a designated bulletin board.

TIP:

See also Bookmarks for All for a similar program that uses bookmark templates.

TIP:

This would be perfect for any LGBTQIA+ teen groups/clubs you may have, or as a bonding activity for a teen advisory board or advocacy group.

TIP:

Promote mental health groups in your area by putting out a stack of flyers.

TIP:

For kindness books, see the Kindness Book List on page 44.

TIP:

For YA fiction that features mental health, see Self-Care Bath Bombs and Sugar Scrub on page 180.

Pride printable created by Laura Erwin of Chillicothe & Ross County Public Library.

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live
your
dream.

