

BEASTLY LETTERS

AGES

Children 4+ years

Adaptations for teens and adults

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Turn everyday letters into something beastly! Children turn the first initial of their names into animal drawings. Alternatively, they find an animal that begins with the same letter as their first initial, then draw and write about that animal. They might gather fun facts about that animal, or write a story about its best or worst day. Older children can create 3D letters/animals out of construction paper or cardboard. Teens and adults might be interested in creating their own fonts or learning calligraphy. A simple, inexpensive program that can be modified for any age group. Be sure to create a display for the finished letters! Suggested runtime: 60–90 minutes

You could also run a passive bookmark contest for all ages. Supply paper with the letters of your library's acronym and ask contestants to morph them into an animal or animals. Have an outside organization or your library's teen group judge the winner. Remember to print real bookmarks from the winner(s) to hand out to patrons!

TIP:

Have children practice navigating the library by asking them to find a book on the shelf that features their favorite animal.



Image source: Maria Parker of Kenton County Public Library



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials depend on your chosen craft and what you have on hand. At a minimum, you need paper and drawing supplies. Also consider embellishments such as recycled materials, yarn, feathers, noodles, paint, beads, etc. 3D letters will require cardboard, glue, and tape. See Printables for a block letter template.

Teens might want to learn how to create an animal alphabet font or a font out of their own handwriting. Calligraphr.com is a great way to get started, with tips and a free downloadable template: <https://www.calligraphr.com/>

For adults, consider a hand-lettering or calligraphy tutorial. For calligraphy, you will also need fountain pens, brush pens, or paintbrushes and India ink. See Printables for a modern calligraphy template. Or have adults make animal centerpieces/wreaths out of 3D cardboard letters. For inspiration, see here: <https://bit.ly/2YWS1Kf>.

Calligraphy basics:

- use fountain pens, brush pens, or paintbrushes and India ink
- light pressure on the upstroke and firm pressure on the down stroke to make the line variation

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

You will need a knowledgeable person to run calligraphy, lettering, or font-making lessons (if you live near a college with a graphic design program, try soliciting student presenters).

RESOURCES

Web

Calligraphr font-making app and template: <https://www.calligraphr.com/>

Lettering Nonfiction

Draw Your Own Fonts (2017) by Tony Sedden (teen/adult)

Express Yourself: A Hand-Lettering Workbook for Kids (2018)
by Amy Latta (middle grade)

The Kids' Book of Hand Lettering: 20 Lessons and Projects to Decorate Your World (2018) by Nicole Santo Miyuki (middle grade)

The Non-Designer's Design Book, 4th edition (2014)
by Robin Williams (adult)

TIP:

For Disney fans, the program could be based on the castle that inspired many Disney castles (Neuschwanstein Castle).

CRAFT | LOW COST | PASSIVE | SOLO-LIBRARIAN FRIENDLY

RESIZABLE DOWNLOADS

(SEE ONLINE MANUAL OR USB)

Block Alphabet Letters



Modern Calligraphy Script

