

Watercolor Bookmaking Classroom Pack

Grades 3 and up

A relatively simple introduction to bookmaking, this project involves students in creating a spiral-bound book with decorative covers. This is a great cross-curricular lesson; the cover decoration can be adapted to any content area as a journal, recording—in art and words—what the students learn. Most mediums adapt well to the cover decoration, making this an opportunity for unlimited creative expression!

Objectives:

- Students will learn how to put together a spiral-bound book using blank watercolor paper covers, watercolor paper pages and a spiral binding.
- Students will use a variety of materials as decorative elements on the covers, conveying the subject(s) examined in the book.

Contents:

- Pre-punched 270# Watercolor Paper Covers
- Pre-punched 135# Watercolor Paper
- Black binding coils (coils are slightly longer)

General Directions:

1. Directions are for books with front and back 270# Watercolor Paper Covers and 135# Watercolor Paper. Each student should receive 2 - 270# Watercolor Paper Covers, 12 sheets of 135# Watercolor Paper and 1 black binding coil.
2. Count out the number of sheets of paper you will be using, then place them between the 2 covers lining up the holes. Take a black binding coil and starting at one end, spiral the coil through each of the holes. ***Note: Leave ½" extra coil on both ends of the book to prevent the coil from spiraling out of the book when in use. Carefully cut any excess coil.**

Decorating Tips & Ideas

- Decide how you would like to decorate your covers. Depending upon the medium and technique, your books can be assembled before or after decoration.
- Covers can be painted with watercolors, inks, dyes, acrylics or tempera. (If using tempera, varnish over the top.)
- Decorate with glitter glue.
- Use paper punches to punch printed papers and glue to the covers.
- Use sponge rollers and paint to embellish covers.
- Paint your cover, then use stamps and ink pads to decorate.
- Cut your own stamps and use them to decorate your book.
- Use wiggle eyes, buttons, seeds, wonder foam, glitter, gemstones, felt or fabric—your possibilities are limitless.

National Standards:

Content Standard #1: Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes.

Grades 5-8: Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques and processes to enhance communication of the experiences and ideas.

Content Standard #6: Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines.

Grades 5-8: Students describe ways in which the principles and subject matter of other disciplines taught in the school are interrelated.



Sample book
made by student