

Activities with Paper

How to Make a Paper Hat

Art and Social Studies

K-4

1-2 Lessons





Overview

Students will learn to make a paper hat that they can use as a prop to celebrate Social Studies-related events.



MATERIALS

- Printer paper (or, for a larger hat, you may wish to use a larger sheet of paper)
- Markers, glitter, feathers, glue and other materials to decorate the hat.
- Pictures of historic events that you have studied as a class. Ideally these will be made visible on the board or around the classroom for inspiration.

Objectives

Students will

- Follow steps in a process
- Research the hats worn in different historical periods
- Design a hat to reflect a historical person or period
- Make a paper hat
- Decorate a paper hat to celebrate a historical period, person or event.

Activities

1. Explain to the class that today they will be making paper hats to celebrate their favorite person, event or period in history. Distribute the “Making a Historic Hat” worksheet.
2. Review some of the historical topics you have studied as a class. Ask students to choose the historical topic/person/period they want to celebrate. Each student can make his or her own choice. Have students complete the Making a Historic Hat worksheet. This should take one lesson and can involve homework. As students complete this worksheet, they are researching the hats people wore in different periods of history and designing how to make a hat that reflects a particular historical period or person.

Once students have completed the Making a Historic Hat worksheet, they are ready to create their hat. Distribute a blank piece of printer paper to every student. Also distribute the Student Directions for Making a Hat to each student. Model each step and pause to check that each student has correctly executed the steps.

How to Make a Paper Hat



3.



Take a sheet of paper. Turn it to landscape orientation.

4.



Fold the page in half horizontally.

5.



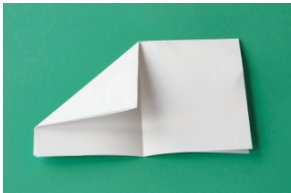
Next, fold it vertically. This will create an indented line that will be helpful in making our paper hat.

6.



Now unfold it so that the page is folded in half. Place the folded paper in front of you with the fold at the top.

7.



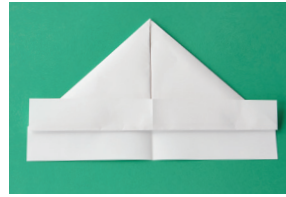
Take the left corner and fold it so that it meets the indented line in the center. The picture above should help you. Do this on the right side as well.

8.



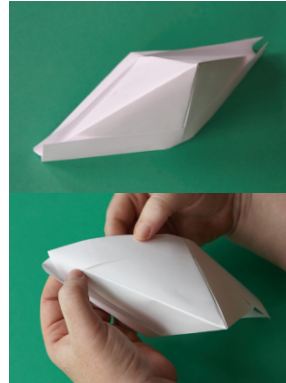
Now the top part of your paper should be shaped like a triangle with a flap of paper underneath. The picture left shows what it should look like.

9.



Take the flap on one side and fold it up over the bottom of the triangle.

10.



Do the same to the flap on the other side. You can secure the flap with tape or tuck the corners into the side of your hat.

11. Try your hat on for size! If you made it with printer paper, it will be quite small. If you want to make a bigger hat, you can tape or paste four sheets of printer paper together OR use one larger sheet of paper.

12. Tell students to think about the historic event or person they are celebrating. Provide pictures to inspire students. Look at old paintings and photographs. This will give them ideas about how to decorate their hats.

13. Now it is time to decorate their hats! Provide feathers, felt, glitter, magic marker and other decorative materials. Emphasize the historical aspect of the project by asking students how their choice of materials reflect the historical event/period/person they have chosen.

14. Have a hat fashion show in your classroom! Play “pomp and circumstance” and have each student walk in a circle around the classroom, parading their hats!



Adaptations

For students who struggle with this activity: It may take several tries before a student is able to make a hat well. Encourage persistence and the saying “practice makes perfect.” The truth is that the more a student makes a paper hat, the better he or she will get at making one. If you can, you might consider providing students with several extra pages each to take home so that they can practice further for homework.

For students in need of extra challenge: Ask students to write a paragraph about the hat they made and the historical event or person that their hat is inspired by.

Evaluation

Evaluate how well students followed directions: Evaluate students’ hats by assessing whether the student followed each of the directions and folded the paper neatly and exactly. Students who rush might fold their paper unevenly, creating a sloppy looking hat. Because this hat is so simple to make, it is fair to insist that all students focus on folding as neatly and precisely as they can. This will help them develop spatial relations and fine motor skills.

Evaluate student creativity: Does the hat show a creative use of the materials available to them? Does the hat look interesting or appealing?

Evaluate student understanding of historical event or character: Does the student’s choice of decoration reflect a basic understanding of the historical event or character they chose to celebrate? Or is the hat just randomly decorated?





Name: _____ Date: _____

Step One: Get Inspired

1. Think of all the historical periods, events and people you have studied in class. Which was your favorite?

2. Why was it your favorite? _____

Today you will make a paper hat to celebrate your favorite historical period/event or person.

3. Write the historical period/event or person you will celebrate here: _____

Step Two: Research and Design Your Hat


4. Look at pictures of your favorite historical period/event/person. List some things you notice here:


5. How will you decorate your hat to reflect your favorite historical period/event/person? Explain here.


6. List the materials you will need to decorate your hat.




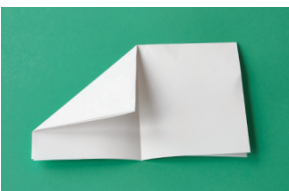
Step Three: Student Directions for Making a Hat


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1. Take a sheet of paper. Turn it to landscape orientation.
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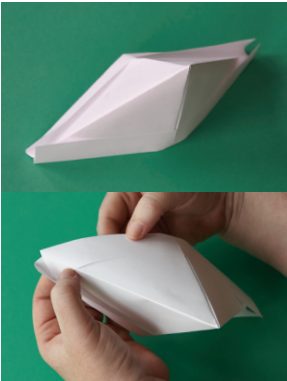
2. Fold the page in half horizontally.
- 

3. Next, fold it vertically. This will create an indented line that will be helpful in making your paper hat.
- 

4. Now unfold it so that the page is folded in half. Place the folded paper in front of you with the fold at the top.
- 

5. Take the left corner and fold it so that it meets the indented line in the center. The picture above should help you. Do this to the right corner as well.
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6. Now the top part of your paper should be shaped like a triangle with a flap of paper underneath. The picture left shows what it should look like.
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7. Take the bottom flap on one side and fold it up and over the bottom of the triangle.
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8. Do the same to the bottom flap on the other side. You can secure the flap with tape or tuck in the corners to the side of your hat.
9. Try your hat on for size! If you made it with printer paper, it will be quite small. If you want to make a bigger hat, you can tape or paste four sheets of printer paper together OR use a larger sheet of paper.
10. Turn the page over and design your hat. Draw all the features it will have. Write a caption that explains how the hat reflects the historical character or event you are celebrating.