



# Activities with Paper

Dear Educator,

Paper is so much more than just a medium to draw, write or read on. Paper can also be used to build things, including planes, hats, books or iphone stands! When your students use paper to construct objects, they are engaging in elementary-level material science.

The Paper is Power™ activities are intended to give your elementary classroom a chance to experience the thrill of making things with paper. And while they are certainly fun to do, these activities pack a valuable educational punch. In some cases, we've even added Social Studies / ELA or Science background to further enrich the activities. Even without this content-based frame, the activities in their own right are valuable learning experiences for the elementary child.

## How Your Students Will Benefit:

- Each of these activities helps develop children's fine motor skills which are essential to writing and drawing.
- By learning how to make simple objects with paper, students will develop a basic understanding that objects do not just appear—they are made by human ingenuity, skill and effort.
- Students may develop an interest in working with their hands and improving on their early creations.

## What Your Students Will Learn:

- How to make simple objects using paper
- How to follow directions
- How to complete steps in a process
- "A Stitch in Time Saves Nine." Through trial and error, they will learn that taking care to do each step slowly and properly results in a successful end product.



## Paper is Power™ Activities:

Classroom Poster “How Paper is Made”

Activity Book with coloring pages

Paper Activities:

- How to Make and Test a Paper Airplane
- How to Make a Cellphone Stand with Paper
- Make a Foldable Book
- Using Fortune Tellers for Education
- How to Make a Paper Hat
- How to Make Paper

## Why These Activities Matter:

- The science of engineering begins with extremely simple activities such as the ones listed here.
- By learning to make and test their products, students participate in a development process and get to use their problem-solving skills as they work out the “kinks” in their initial products.
- Creating products with one’s own hands gives children a sense of accomplishment and an interest in developing their “hands on” skills. In the age of gaming, “hands on” activities are more important than ever. They build practical skills, dexterity, a can-do spirit, and problem-solving skills. Perhaps most valuable of all, folding activities have been shown to calm the mind and soothe agitation. You may find that these activities are particularly beneficial to students who are easily stressed or who struggle with attentional difficulties.

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