FAMILY ACTIVITY: BOOKMAKING

In this activity, youth will create one of the world’s most powerful objects: a book! Books have the power to spread ideas, change our perspectives, and give us joy; blank books give us space to imagine, reflect, and share our own ideas. Empowering youth to create, rather than buy, everyday objects cultivates agency and a critical awareness of how things are made, and encourages a ‘making’ mindset. Learning about the construction of books relates to manufacturing, engineering, questions of mass production, and how humans manipulate natural materials to create useful objects (like paper).

To make books, youth will use measurement skills (formal and informal), craftsmanship skills through simple folding technique, and creative skills to design the personalization of their books’ exteriors and contents. Instructions here are for a simple ‘no-sew’ pamphlet-stitch book, but this activity can be modified to create many other forms of books.

MATERIALS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Materials
- Computer paper - several sheets per book
- Construction paper (optional, for covers) - 1 9x12” sheet per camper
- Pencils
- Scissors
- Yarn or ribbon
- Drawing materials, or other ways to personalize books

Instructions
1. Follow the instructions below to create books! Demonstrate the process for younger youth.

Modified Pamphlet Stitch
no-needle, simple wrap-around

Paula Beadell Kriegl
http://bookzoompa.wordpress.com

Materials:
- Several (2 - 8) sheets of paper, folded in half
- Cord or yarn, 3 times as long as the height of the folded paper
- Scissors

1. Nest folded papers together.
2. Snip away top and bottom corners of the spine. Cut a triangular hole from the middle of the spine.
3. From the outside of the pamphlet lace the string through the center hole, leaving about a 4” tail. Let the long end hang down free from the center of the pamphlet.
QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- What is your favorite book?
- What is something you learned during this activity?
- What were some challenges you faced while doing this activity?
- What do you think was successful in creating your book?
- What would you like to draw or write in your book?

REFERENCES, MODIFICATIONS, & EXTENSIONS

References
Illustrated instructions from [here](#).

Modifications
- COLLABORATE - Youth can do this activity with siblings or adults.
- Up to eight pieces of paper can be easily used for book pamphlets (cutting becomes difficult with more), but if construction paper covers are being used, more than one set of folded pages can be stitched into the same cover.
- Books can be made in different dimensions, with recycled materials, or with different binding styles.
  - [Here](#) is tutorial for simplified Japanese-style bookbinding that would take a little more time, using a pipe cleaner as needle and paper lunch bags as book covers.
  - [Here](#) is a tutorial for a simplified accordian book.
  - [Here](#) are instructions for making a mini-book out of one sheet of paper.

Extensions
- Completed blank books can be utilized for many other activities, such as: journals, nature observation logs, sketchbooks, or storybooks.
- Print out pages with content for you to bind. For example, pages with songs, games, or recipes on them.
- [Make paper from recycled materials](#), and use it to make books.