

BAM | BOISE ART MUSEUM

MAKE-IT ACTIVITY: Paper Bag Book

Materials for Book

- One brown paper grocery bag
- Scissors
- Glue Stick

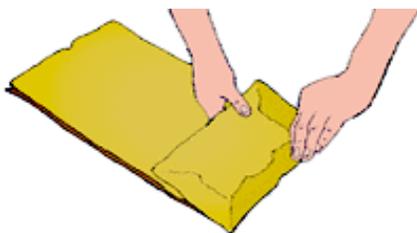
Materials for Decoration

- Stickers
- Ink stamps
- Old postage stamps
- Felt-tip markers/crayons
- Colored paper
- Magazines with lots of pictures

Instructions

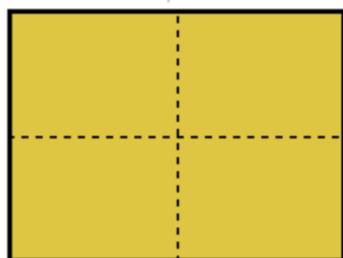
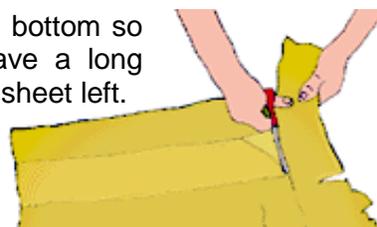
Step 1

Carefully take the bag apart along its seam and lay it out on the table in front of you.



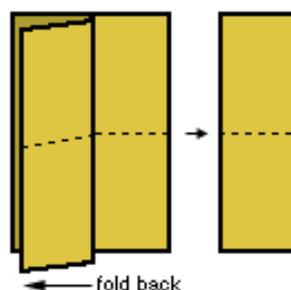
Step 2

Trim off the bottom so that you have a long rectangular sheet left.



Step 3

Fold the paper in half longways. Crease well and then unfold. Fold the paper in half the other direction. Crease well. Do not unfold.

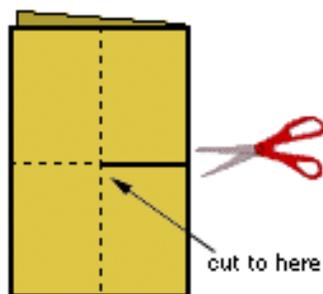


Step 4

Fold back one side as shown in the figure to the left. Place the corners together and crease well. Repeat with the other side.

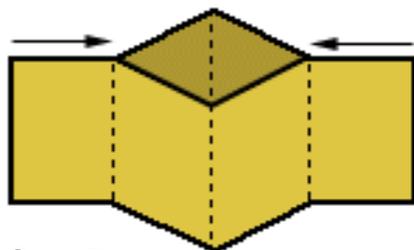
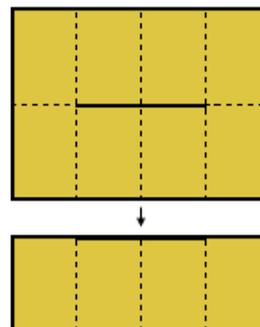
Step 5

Unfold the last two folds. Holding the folded side in your hand, cut along the center line until you reach the first vertical fold.



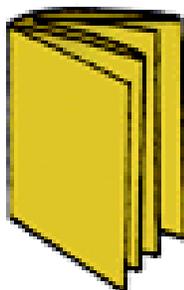
Step 6

Open the paper so that eight sections are showing. Fold the page in half longways. (If there are pictures or words on the paper they should be on the inside.)



Step 7

Holding on to each side, gently push the ends together to form the pages of the book.



Step 8

Fold the front and back covers around so that the corners meet. Crease well. You should have six pages inside for writing and artwork.

Step 9

Finish book by gluing or sewing the pages together.

James Castle (1899-1977)

Making Art from Cast-off Materials

James Castle was born in Garden Valley, Idaho in 1899. He was born deaf and did not learn to speak, to use sign language, or to read and write. He developed his own system of expression and communication through the artwork he created on a daily basis. He used found materials and fashioned his own art tools and media. Castle rejected traditional art supplies offered to him, instead preferring to use sharpened sticks for pencils and soot mixed with saliva for graphite as well as other cast-off or found materials.



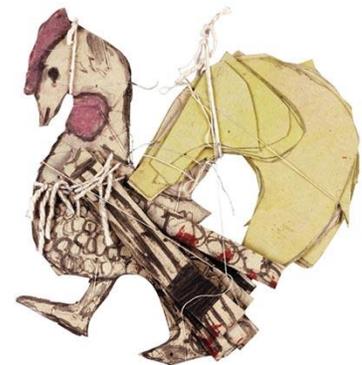
Cover

Inside



Even though he could not read or write, James Castle made books out of all kinds of materials. He even took old books apart and put them back together in his own way and with his own picture stories.

Since first displaying his art in 1963, the Boise Art Museum has collected the work of Idaho artist James Castle through purchase and donation. As a result, the Museum has the largest body of Castle's works in a public collection.



Images:

Top: **Untitled (abstract walking figure)**, after 1932, found paper, soot

Center: **Untitled (Saltine book)**, 20th century, paper, soot, color-printed cardboard, Permanent Collection Purchase (1998)

Bottom: **Untitled (rooster)**, 20th century, cardboard, string, paint, Permanent Collection Purchase (1998)