

CADETTE: BOOK ARTIST

Hey Girl! Do you enjoy getting lost in a book? Do you like the way the old paper just looks better than new books? If so, this is the badge for you! Learn about the making of a book and see what you can create from those perfect pages. When you've earned this badge, you'll know how to make different kinds of books.

Step 1: Explore the art of bookbinding.

1. Humans have been creating and preserving documents since the beginning of time. The invention of paper made this easier, and today artists make book covers by recycling everything from bottle caps to leather clothes to license plates. Now let's look into the art of binding a book.
2. Survey a book collection by finding five different sizes and styles of books. Look at the library, a bookstore, or in your own collection. Then figure out the binding and printing methods used to create each one. Use books and websites to help you get familiar with the parts of a book.

Supplies:

1. Books
2. Computer
3. Paper and pencil (for notes)

Step 2: Get familiar with the insides of a book.

1. Before we start creating our own books we need to first take a look inside. We need to see how they are made.
2. Take an old book apart. Find a discarded book from a library or an old book from your collection, a used bookstore, or a yard sale. Name the parts of the binding and interior. Then carefully take apart the book to find out how it was made.
3. For additional fun find out what it would take to put the book back together and try it!

Supplies:

1. Old book
2. Computer (for research)

Step 3: Try out book artists techniques.

1. To get started on this step all you need is plain paper, your fingers for folding, regular thread, and glue. You are going to be making completed books in the next steps. So we will use this step to practice bookbinding methods.
2. There are three techniques. 1. Fold-and-cut. Try making an accordion book with this method. 2. Glue binding. Gluing allows you to place many pages into a spine and to add beautiful covers to basic books. 3. Stitch. Make a simple sewn book.
3. Research and try one or two of these fun methods.

Supplies:

1. Computer
2. Plain paper
3. Regular Thread
4. Glue

Step 4: Focus on function.

1. Now that you have taken a closer look at books, it is time to make your own. Think about what materials will work best with the contents of the book you choose to make.
2. Make an organizational book. This might be a personal date book, planner, or calendar book. Some computer programs offer templates with calendar pages you can bind into your book.
3. Or you can make a memory book. This could be an album for your photos; a journal for thoughts, dreams, or favorite quotes; or a book with heavy paper for pasting in memories from a Girl Scouts trip or family vacation.

Supplies:

1. Computer
2. Paper

Step 5: Focus on style

1. Books can be interesting for more than just their content. They can also be beautiful works of art. Now is time to concentrate on the look and style of the book you create.
2. Make a book from something unexpected. Use grocery bags, maps, menus, magazine or newspaper pages, or any other kind of creative material for the cover, endpapers, or pages for your book.