



Craft
Ages 9–12
30–45 minutes

Mini Journals

Description

Journals can be used to record feelings, memories, events, observations and much more in prose, poetry, images and other formats. Participants will create their own journals to be used any way they like and decorate them with materials provided by the library.

Number of participants

For any number of participants

Space considerations

An indoor space where participants can be seated to do a craft

Competencies

- Creative expression
- Development of fine motor skills
- Eye-hand coordination

Materials

- 8.5" x 11" printer paper
- Cardstock
- Stapler
- Scissors

Optional

- Washi tape
- Liquid glue or glue sticks
- Stickers

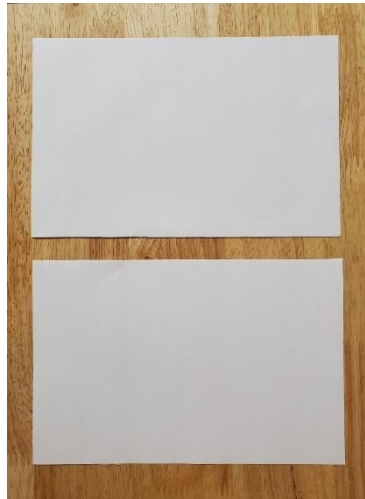
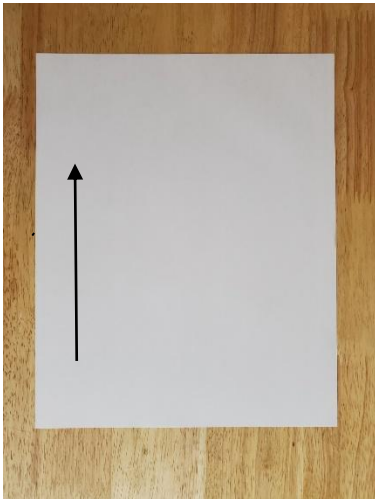
- Googly eyes
- Pompoms
- Foam stickers
- Natural elements (e.g., dried grass, flowers, rocks)
- Plastic natural elements
- Scrap paper for designing journal

Preparation

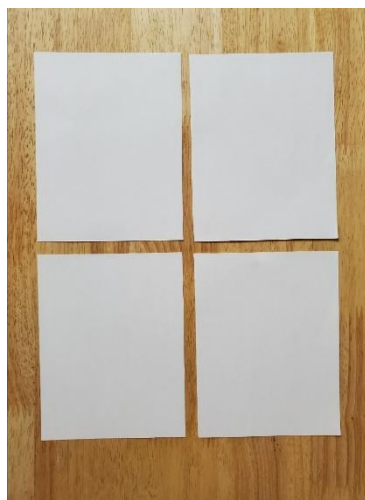
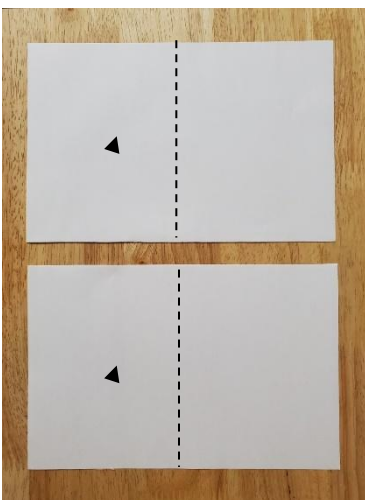
- Precut and fold paper for journals
- Distribute materials

Implementation

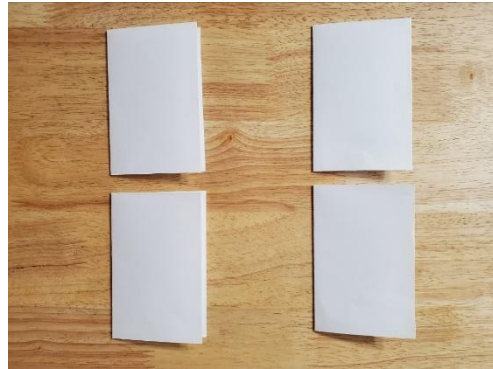
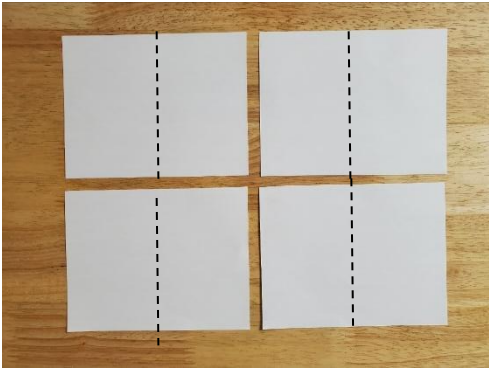
1. Fold an 8.5" x 11" paper in half and then cut it



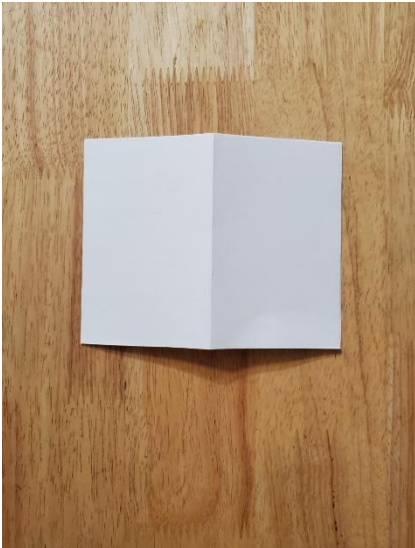
2. Fold both pieces in half and then cut them to create four pieces of paper



Fold all four pieces in half



3. Stack the pieces. Cut cardstock the same length as the pages and place on top, then fold



4. Unfold and then use a stapler to fasten the spine of the journal



5. Decorate the journal with craft supplies



Accessibility considerations

- Provide scrap paper so they can design their journal covers
- Precut some journal paper and cardstock covers
- Use large glue sticks or craft sticks when using tubs of liquid glue
- Use tactile stickers

Book suggestions

- *A First Time for Everything* by Dan Santat
- *Isabel in Bloom* by Mae Respicio
- *Salma Writes a Book* by Danny Ramadan and Anna Bron

Download links

- [Mini Journals—Full Activity PDF](#)
- [Mini Journals—Page Ideas](#)

Images



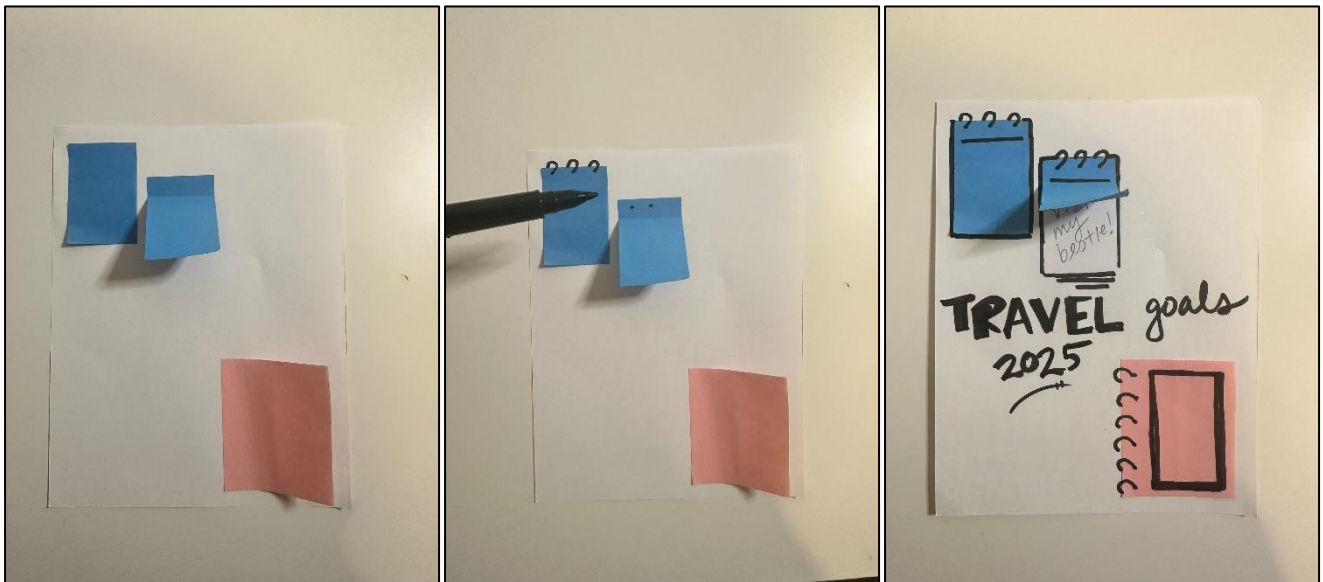
Mini Journals—Page Ideas

Notes to Self

Materials

- Mini memo/Post-it notes
- Markers
- Glue (optional)

1. Arrange mini-notes on your page. You can cut them for assorted sizes.
2. Draw dots along the top or side of the mini-notes and make little loops to mimic a spiral-bound notebook. Outline the mini-notes and add shadows.
3. Flip up mini-notes and write a hidden message. Include a title or header somewhere on the page too.



Dream Destination Writing Idea

Make a list of all the places you want to visit.

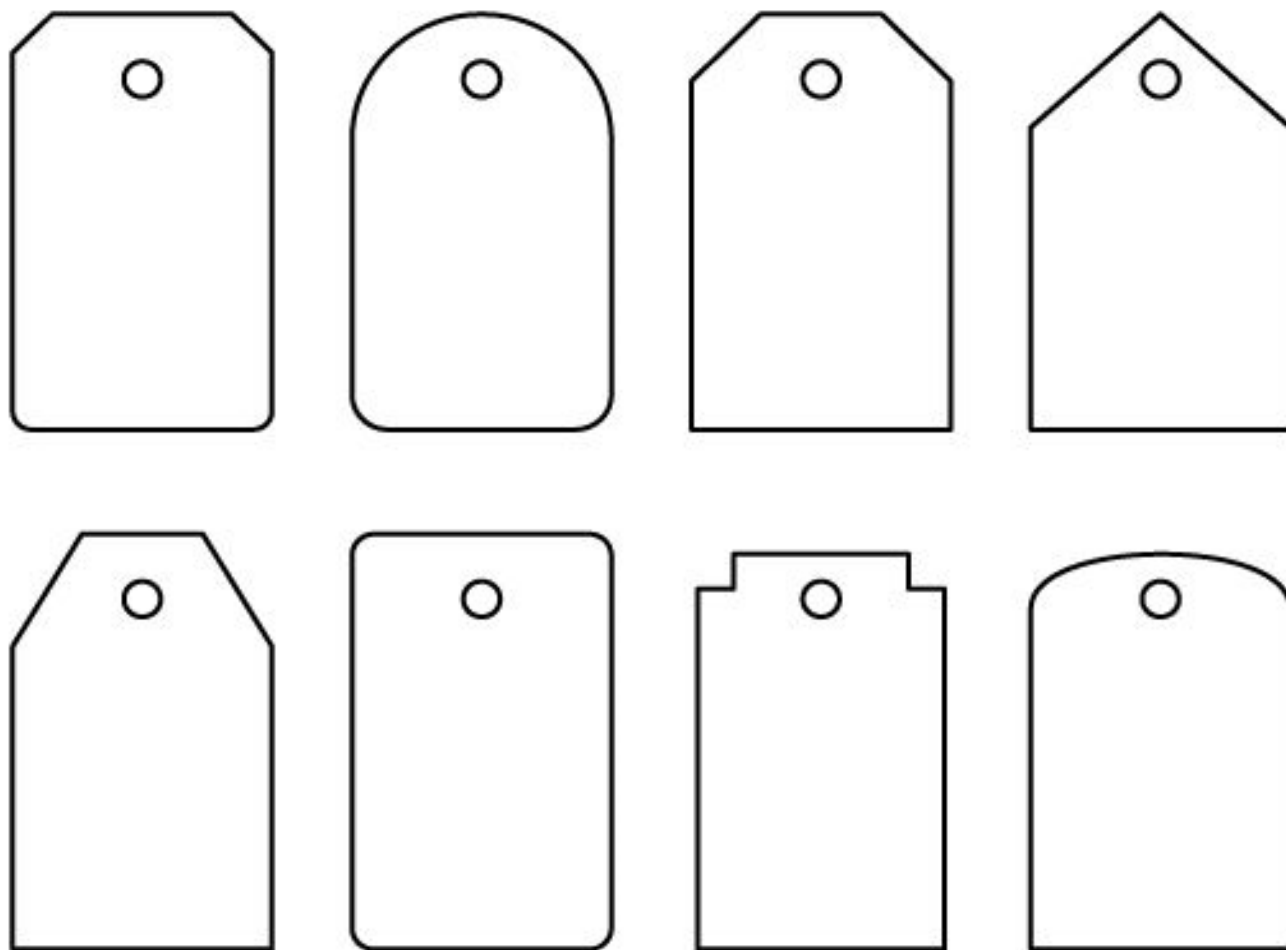
Think about what it is about those places that makes them so appealing.

Now try to think of somewhere else that has those same characteristics.

Luggage Tag Bookmarks

Materials

- Tag template
- Markers/crayons
- Single-hole punch
- Ribbon or string



1. Print or trace tags.
2. Colour and decorate tags.
3. Punch a hole at the top of the tag
4. Tie ribbon or string through the hole.
5. Use as a placeholder or simply add to your journal.



Nature Stationery

Use the Nature Stationery Activity to create a page in your mini journal.

