
Innovation: Book craft

In this activity sheet students will:

- explore a range of book cover designs including comics, zines and picture books, as well as a various examples of binding and marbling
- explore some aspects of the art of book making, including cover design, marbling and binding in order to make their own book
- learn how to make a book entirely out of recycled materials.

Answers to Question time

1. Students' answers; probably other books, especially second-hand bookstores or antique shops that stock old books.
2. Patterns suggest: shells, ink spots, rivers, ribbons, waves.
3. Drawing patterns using inks on water. Ingredients: special inks, water, plastic combs, sticks and paper.

Answer to Activity 3

1. Squashed/folded pages, bound with different coloured thread or sealed with wax.

Further reading

For more information, you can explore the following websites on bookmaking.

The San Diego Museum of Art has some excellent, clearly presented, lesson plans for creating artistic books, including accordion books, Japanese stab binding, pop-up books and tunnel books.

<http://www.sdmart.org/education-plans.html>

Booklyn is a great resource with detailed instructions and diagrams for making and binding books, suggestions for educational activities to do with students and a full colour gallery of handmade books.

<http://www.booklyn.org/education.php>

This site has some easy to follow instructions on how to make your own paper.

<http://gort.ucsd.edu/preseduc/papermak.htm>

Sources consulted

Pollei, Mark, *The Art of Paper Marbling and Japanese Sumingashi*, A. Dean Larson Book Collecting Conference, L. Tom Perry Special Collections Library website, Brigham Young University.

<http://sc.lib.byu.edu/events/bookconference2005/marbling.php>

History of Sumingashi: The Ancient Art of Japanese Marbling

<http://www.suminagashi.com/history.html>