Did you know making art is a wonderful way to relieve stress, have fun, learn something, and exercise your brain? It is! And it’s always wonderful when you have made something you love to display for yourself or give as a gift. If it doesn’t work out how you want, that’s okay too. Hopefully you learned something and had fun. I hope you enjoy these lessons. They will be fun for both kids and adults.

When deciding what kind of projects to teach I was thinking about how we could have sturdy, big paper to work on and it hit me, paper bags! They’re made of thick, craft paper that can withstand a lot of materials and they are readily available - perfect! We’re going to transform our paper bags into wonderful creations. There will be a different project for each lesson but they will all be using paper bags. All four projects are very different; one is a crayon resist, another a collage, a huge flower, and your very own journal. We’ll be using a variety of materials with lots of flexibility. The goal is to be creative, use your imagination, learn to reimagine materials, learn some new techniques, and make some fun art.

**Instructional videos available at [lanearts.org/online-learning](http://lanearts.org/online-learning)**

**HOW TO BREAK DOWN YOUR BAG**

The first step for all of these projects is to break down your paper bag, so that you have one big flat piece of paper to work from. We will be removing the bottom of the bag to do this. **This does not need to be perfect!**

**With Scissors**

1. Open your bag and grab close to the corner.
2. Cut down the corner fold until you reach the bottom.
3. Hold the bag where you just cut it, close to the bottom of the bag.
4. Cut across the bottom of the bag, along the fold.
5. Continue to cut around the bottom until you have cut the bottom off.
6. You should now have one large rectangle and the bottom of the bag.
7. You’re ready to begin!

**With Tearing**

1. Open your bag and grab close to the corner.
2. Tear down the corner fold until you reach the bottom.
3. Hold the bag where you just tore it, close to the bottom of the bag.
4. Tear across the bottom of the bag, along the fold.
5. Continue to tear around the bottom until you have torn the bottom off.
6. You should now have one large rectangle and the bottom of the bag.
7. You’re ready to begin!
Today we’ll be using the properties of the crayon to create a really cool piece of art! Crayons are made of wax, and wax resists liquid. Since oil pastels are made of oil and oil also resists liquid they will work too!

Instructional videos available at lanearts.org/online-learning

MATERIALS
- Broken down paper bag
- Crayons OR oil pastels **water soluble will not work for the resist technique
- Black paint OR ink, dark marker, watercolor, or food coloring
- Water
- Paintbrush
- Cloth OR paper towel, baby wipe, napkin
- Palette OR lid, scrap of paper bag—to put paint on if using
- Scissors—helpful but not necessary
**This art project will still be fun if you use just crayons.

THE SUN & THE MOON
Let’s think about the sun and the moon. Everybody in our whole world is under the same sun and moon. I like to think about that sometimes. I love the sun and moon equally. I love the warmth of the sun, and the life and energy it brings. I love the glow of the moon, how it feels like it is a little magical for some reason. How do you feel about them? What colors do you think of when you think of the sun and moon? Even though both the sun and the moon appear as white circles (or crescents) in the sky we often don’t think about them that way. In art you often see the sun depicted in warm colors. Warm colors are colors like orange, red, and yellow usually. Colors like blue, green, and purple are considered cooler colors. The moon is often depicted in cooler colors, maybe because it’s cold there, or maybe because it reflects the light instead of shining it. Colors are a very important part of how you want your art to feel. Today you’re going to choose, do you want to make a sun or a moon? While you’re thinking about it, let’s get started!

CREATING YOUR PIECE OF ART!
Step 1: Cut or tear your paper: You’ll want your paper to be 5 to 10 inches on each side.
Step 2: Knowing which you want to make, a sun or moon, choose some colors to use. Keep in mind how you want your sun or moon to feel.
Step 3: Draw a circle. Press hard, we want to really lay down the wax or oil.
Step 4: Draw some rays coming off your sun or moon.
Step 5: Give your sun or moon a face! Think about how you want them to look, happy? sleepy? evil? silly? It’s up to you!
Step 6: Color in your picture. Tips: Don’t forget to color hard! White looks great with this project and will really pop. You can use white to lighten a color by coloring right on top of the other color.
Step 7: Cover your picture with black paint. Any kind of water soluble black or dark paint or ink will work, you can also dip a marker in water and color it on top of your drawing. Food coloring works as well.
Step 8: Using a damp cloth wipe off the paint. Wipe off as much or little as you want. Paper towels and baby wipes work well also.
Step 9: Add some finishing touches with crayons and sign and date your work!
You did it! I hope you had fun :) This is a fun technique that you can experiment with and use to make all sorts of great art. Happy Creating!

CONTENT CREATED BY MELANIE PEARSON
BROWN BAG CREATIONS: GIGANTIC FLOWERS

Today we will be using our entire broken down brown bag to make our gigantic flowers, including the bottom of the bag!

This project made me think of Georgia O’Keeffe. She was an American artist that loved to paint enormous flowers and skulls. Her artwork is amazing and she also has an interesting life story. Look her up if you’re interested! She was one of my first favorite artists.

Instructional videos available at lanearts.org/online-learning

MATERIALS
- Broken down paper bag
- Markers OR crayons
- Chalk (any kind) OR crayons, paint, or markers
- Glue OR tape **I recommend school glue or masking tape, but any kind will work
- Scissors (helpful, but not necessary)

CREATING THE CENTER OF THE FLOWER
1. Using a marker or crayon, draw a big circle on one end of your big piece of paper (we want to have one long piece for our petals). This will be the center of our flower. It should take up about a third of the bag.
2. Cut or tear the circle out. If you’re tearing, it helps to hold your hand down close to the line you drew.
3. Fill your circle with little circles, all the circles should be touching. These can be as big or small as you want. Set aside.

CREATING THE PETALS
1. Choose a color of chalk that you want to be the main color of your petals. Get out your remaining piece of paper bag. You can also use a crayon, without paper on it, turned on its side. Or paint, but you’ll have to let it dry.
2. Using the side of the chalk, color down the center of the rest of your bag, horizontally, from one short side to the side you cut your circle from. This should take up most of the bag leaving the top and bottom edges not colored.
3. Choose another color of chalk that will compliment your petal color. It will be the color that is on the inside of the petal, closest to the center.
4. Using the side of your new chalk color, overlap your first color along the outside edges. You should see them start to blend a little. You can go over the blended edges with the first color again if you’d like, to smooth out the blend. You will still have uncolored edges along the top and bottom.
5. Think about what shape you want your petals to be, pointy or curved?
6. Now we are going to cut or tear our petals. We will be creating petals from both the top and bottom of our paper. The uncolored area on the top and bottom will be the bottom of the petals.
7. Starting on one end, cut or tear your petals. You’ll want the tips of the petals to be in the center of your colored paper. Use the cut or torn side of the petal you just cut as the side of the next petal. Cut petals out all along the bottom, then flip your paper around and cut more petals. You should end up with a nice pile of colored petals that have brown bag still showing on the bottom of the petals.
CONSTRUCTING THE FLOWER

1. Get out the bottom/base of your bag and your circled circle. Stack them and see if there are any edges from the bottom of your bag sticking out around your circle. Trim the bottom of the bag if it is larger than your circle. The bottom of the bag will be your base. Set the circled circle aside.

2. Lay the base (bottom of your bag) down on your work surface. Arrange your petals around the base, radiating from the center. The brown bag edge should be on top of the base, with the colored tips pointing out. Make sure to overlap your petals.

3. When you’re happy with your placement lay your circled circle on top and see what you think - do you need to make adjustments? Set aside your circle.

4. Once you’re pleased with your layout, start gluing or taping down your petals to your base. If you’re using glue, make sure to use enough, this paper is heavy! You’ll want to check your placement periodically and make sure you are overlapping your petals. Glue or tape down all your petals!

5. Using glue or tape, attach the circled circle to the center of your flower. You will want to put the glue or tape on the back of the circle. If gluing, make sure to put the glue close to the outside edge and in the center. If taping, make little tape rolls and attach them close to the outside edge as well. Press your center down firmly.

6. Add more details to your flowers if you wish. You could color more or even add bugs if you wanted! Sign your name and date the back.

Now you can display or give away your beautiful flower! Make a whole garden if you want!

CONTENT CREATED BY MELANIE PEARSON
Do you know what a collage is? A collage is when you use a variety of materials and adhere them together to make an image. Today we’re going to make a fun collage using lots of different materials, some that we create and some that we repurpose.

**Instructional videos available at lanearts.org/online-learning**

**MATERIALS**
- Broken down paper bag
- Markers AND/OR crayons AND/OR colored pencils
- Pencil
- Glue OR tape
- Scissors (helpful, but not necessary)
- Collage materials, such as: newspaper, magazines, clean packaging from purchased items, completed and graded school work, catalogues, scrapbooking supplies, leaves, dried petals, feathers, any paper product that is clean and not precious to someone. **Don’t forget to ask permission before using found materials!**

**DRAWING EXERCISE**

We are going to begin with a drawing exercise. I encourage you to switch between crayon, marker and colored pencil freely. We will be using these shapes to build our creature.

1. Cut or tear your bag in half, along the fold. One half will be for drawing and the other for our collage base. Set aside one half.
2. Draw a small shape somewhere in the middle of your broken down paper bag.
3. Using a different color, trace around the outside of that shape, making it a little bigger. Now do that again, at least 5 more times. *Make sure to switch colors! You should have a pretty big, colorful shape now. That one is done for now.*
4. Draw a different shape, medium sized.
5. Fill that shape with stripes. You can make a pattern with the colors if you want.
6. Draw another shape, fill that shape with polka dots. Do you have big polka dots or tiny ones? Color in if you want.
7. Draw a rectangle, fill it with wavy lines. Color, in a pattern, between the wavy lines.
8. Draw another rectangle, fill it with zig zag lines. You can color this one too if you want.

**ASSEMBLING YOUR CREATURE**

1. Cut or tear shapes out. *If tearing, hold hand down firmly on top of shape, and tear around shape, turning the paper. If you accidentally rip or cut a shape, don't worry! We're going to glue them down.*
2. Get out the other half of your paper bag to build your collage on.
3. Play with and arrange your shapes on your paper. We want to create “the bones” for a creature. What kind of creature would you like to make? An invented creature is fun because you can just draw from your imagination. You can make whatever kind of creature you want!

4. Once you’re happy with your layout, glue or tape your shapes down.

5. Now we are going to add more features to our creatures using other collage materials! Get those materials if you haven’t already.

6. We’re going to start off with eyes. How many eyes does your creature have? How big are they? What shape are they? Find a light colored piece of paper and cut out shapes for eyes. A school worksheet would work well for this, or newspaper or magazine text. Eyes say a lot about a creature – use this time to decide whether you want your creature to be silly, happy, scary, mystical, goofy, whatever!

7. Play with eye placement and glue or tape down. Add more details to eyes by drawing or collaging.

8. What other features does your creature need? Wings? Teeth? Feet? Hands? Noses? Fins? Tentacles? Spikes? Horns? Use your collage materials to cut out these features. Play with their placement before you glue or tape them down. You can also draw your creature’s details on them using markers, or crayons or colored pencils. Have fun and use your imagination!

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**ENERGY SCRIBBLES**

Once you have completed your creature we have one last step – energy scribbles! Using a pencil, scribble all around your creature, showing its energy. Is your creature more laid back? Then maybe you have loopy loops. Is your creature scary? Maybe you have more spiky scribbles. I like the pencil because the scribbles are more subtle, but if you want the energy scribbles to be more pronounced you could use a marker or crayon that stands out more. It’s up to you!

**CONTENT CREATED BY MELANIE PEARSON**
BROWN BAG CREATIONS: ART JOURNAL

We’re going to use one bag to make your very own journal. You’re going to have a choice on how you want to bind your journal – binding is how the book is held together. You can sew the journal together or tape it together. Sewing the book will give it a more professional look, it will lay flat, and it will be very stable. You also get to use a hammer and nail (with supervision)! Taping the journal is much faster and easier. You will have to fold your book to get it to lay flat, this can make an interesting effect. It’s your choice!

Instructional videos available at lanearts.org/online-learning

MATERIALS

- Broken down paper bag
- Paper clips OR office clips or bobby pins
- Scissors (helpful, but not necessary)
- One of these two options for binding:
  - **Sewn binding:** pencil, nail, hammer, blunt needle, threat OR yarn, board OR cardboard
  - **Taped binding:** Tape **masking tape works well, but any kind will work**

GETTING STARTED

1. Fold your bag in half, hamburger style.
2. Fold the bag in half again, hotdog, so it’s long and thin.
3. Fold the bag in thirds, so you have one smaller square.
4. Find a side that has only folds, no paper edges, and put a paperclip on it. You can also use a clothes pin, office clip or bobby pin.
5. Cut or tear other folded sides to form pages. If using scissors, just cut along the other three sides, making sure all the folds are cut. If tearing, you will have to unfold your bag from thirds and tear along those fold lines. You will then have one section you will need to unfold a little more and tear to free up the pages.
6. Once you have your pages cut or torn, stack your folded pages inside one another. It helps to put the bigger pieces on the outside.
7. Clip the pages together, so that your book is open.
8. Now it’s time to bind your journal. Follow the directions for the binding style you chose. **Make sure you have permission to use a hammer, nail, and needle. And don’t forget to ask for help if you need it – this part is tricky!**

SEWN BINDING

1. Using a pencil, mark little dots ¾ inch apart down the centerfold.
2. Lay your book on top of a board or a couple layers of cardboard.
3. Using a hammer and nail, carefully nail holes through all the dots on the centerfold. **Make sure you go all the way through all the layers of paper!**
4. Thread your needle. Tie a knot at the bottom of the thread. **You can have your thread be double thickness and tie the knot with both threads if you would like (I like this method). I also like to leave a couple of inches of thread at the bottom for decoration.**
5. Starting at the bottom, pull your thread up through your first hole, from the outside of the book to the inside. Pull it so that your knot is pulled tight against the outside of your journal.
6. Now go into the next hole, from the inside to the outside. Make sure to pull tight!
7. Continue sewing your binding, making sure not to skip any holes.
8. Tie a knot as close as you can to your journal pages. I like to do 2 knots, one on top of each other, to make sure it won't come undone. Trim your thread, leaving a couple inches of thread for decoration if you choose.
9. You did it! If you'd like, you can do this again, going the opposite direction so there appears to be one continuously sewn line. This looks nice but is not necessary.

**TAPED BINDING**

1. Pull off a length of tape that is longer than your book is wide.
2. Center the tape over the centerfold, with tape hanging off both sides. Once you have it lined up straight across, press firmly and fold the tape around the edges.
3. Flip your journal so the outside is facing you, center and adhere tape to the top edge. Wrap your tape around the outside of the journal. Turn your journal over, then continue carefully wrapping tape over the inside centerfold again. Turn your journal over again and bring tape down to the bottom and cut or tear tape. Press firmly. Your taped binding should be double thickness on your entire binding, inside and outside. **If you are using thinner tape and feel you need more stability feel free to add more layers of tape.
4. Carefully fold your journal as if closing it, pressing firmly on the tape to make it bend where you want the crease to be.
5. Open your journal – we are now going to fold the pages so they will lay flat when you are working in and looking at your journal.
6. Starting with the inside page, fold in toward the center on one side, right at the edge of the tape. Crease the page. Move to the next page on the same side. Repeat folding and creasing until all the pages on that side of the journal have been folded.
7. Fold and crease all the pages on the other side. You did it!

**FILL YOUR JOURNAL!**

You have completed making your journal! You can fill it however you want. Have fun with it! This is a book just for you! You can share it with others or you can keep it private. If you don’t like a page, glue something else on top! This is a place for you to explore your curiosities and let out your feelings. Art journaling helps me when I’m upset or feeling sad sometimes. I also like to record exciting life events in my journals. Sometimes I just play and sometimes I practice drawing something I want to paint. Sometimes I write and then paint watercolors over it so I can still read it but I have to look close. Maybe you can try some new techniques you learned from the other classes. There aren’t any rules, which I like! Happy creating!

Here are some suggestions:
- **Write:** poems, stories, letters, your feelings, your name in different ways
- **Draw:** animals, faces, cartoons, nature, your toys, looking out your window, designs
- **Collage:** photos, images, letters, packaging, feathers, ribbons, tape, anything!
- **Paint,** **Color,** **Stamp,** **Cut,** **Practice,** **Plan,** **Design,** Enjoy playing and experimenting!

**CONTENT CREATED BY MELANIE PEARSON**