

RAFT IDEAS

Topics: Artistic Expression, Written Communication

Materials List

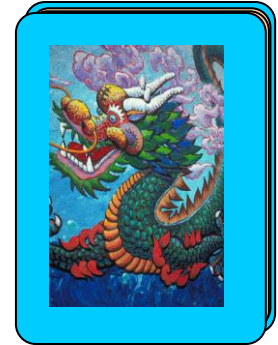
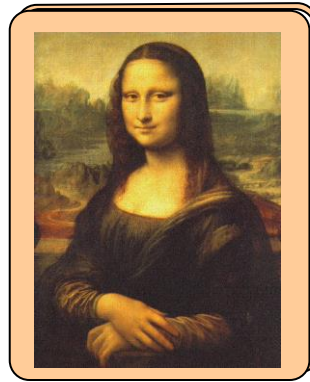
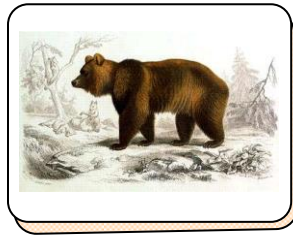
- ✓ Printer paper with pre-punched feed holes
- ✓ Craft or electrical wire
- ✓ Window blind canvas
- ✓ Hot glue
- ✓ Acrylic paint and brushes

This activity can be used to teach:

- Experiment w/ forms, structures & materials (National Visual Arts Standards: Creating, Grades K-12)
- Writing text (Common Core English Language Arts Standards: Writing, Grades K-12, 1-3)

Paintable Cover Books

For Both Written and Painted Masterpieces



These soft cover notebooks have the added feature of covers that look like paint canvases.

To Do and Notice

1. Separate desired number of sheets from the continuous feed stack.
2. Fold each sheet of printer paper in $\frac{1}{2}$ to create double-thick pages.
3. Stitch the book together using a length of wire. Use either backstitching or up-and-down stitching to one end and then back to the start.
4. Secure the wire by wrapping the ends around the stitches a couple of times and trim as needed.
5. Cut window blind canvas to size so that it wraps around the front and back of the book.
6. Secure the cover to the wire-bound pages by applying hot glue to the top and bottom of the page stack's bound edge. Add the cover while the glue is still hot and apply weight to the book during cooling. Let the glue cool completely before opening or using the book.
7. Paint desired images onto the cover using acrylics.

The Content Behind the Activity

People have been collecting and recording thoughts, ideas, and information in written form for millennia. Although not always taking present-day book form (e.g. – clay tablets, scrolls), the concept of recording information in a book for remote retrieval was truly a giant leap for mankind. Major developments in book history include the first alphabets (appearing around 1000 b.c.) and mechanical printing (1455 a.d. by Johannes Gutenberg) that helped spark the European Renaissance. Many famous naturalists, including Charles Darwin and Meriwether Lewis, used journal drawings and notes as a means of collecting information.

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=259 for more resources!)