

Paper Bag Tulips

A Gift for Loved Ones, A Commitment to Mother Earth



Materials Needed

- Paper bag
- Scissors
- Ruler

Grade Range

K-2
3-5

Topics/Skills

The 4Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot; Geometry

Learning Standards

NGSS: [Earth and Human Activity](#)

CA Visual Arts: [Creating](#)

Math: [Geometry](#)

Duration

15 – 20 minutes

Prep Time

5 – 10 minutes

This fun art project encourages students to reuse an item before recycling it and can make a great gift for loved ones.

Activity Challenge

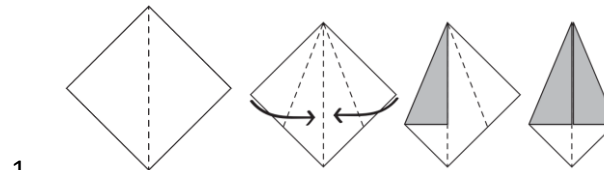
Create a tulip out of a paper bag.

Preparation

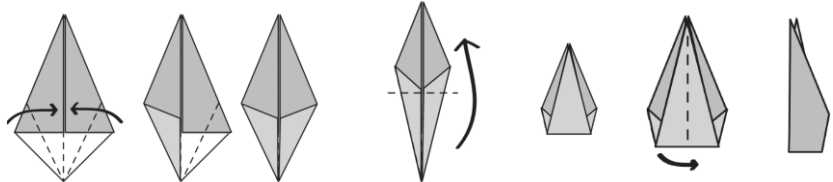
1. Review the Materials Needed list and gather supplies.
2. Select a workspace.
3. Cut one 6-inch x 6-inch square from a paper bag. This will be used for the stem.
4. Cut one 4-inch x 4-inch square from a paper bag. This will be used for the tulip. Reuse paper scraps for another activity or recycle properly.

To Do

For the stem of the tulip, use the 6-inch x 6-inch square cut out paper. Fold as follows:

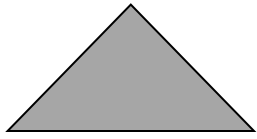


1. Make a diagonal fold, then unfold. Fold 2 corners down to the center.

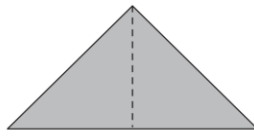


2. Fold both new corners up to the center. Again, fold the new corners up to the center. Fold up the middle, bringing the bottom and top corners together. Fold in half the long way. Pull the inner part out a bit. See next page for finished stem.

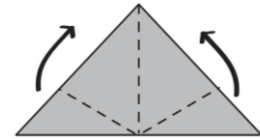
For tulip flower, use the 4-inch by 4-inch paper cut square and fold as follows:



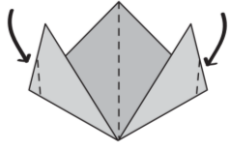
1. Fold in half diagonally.



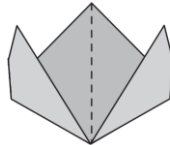
2. Fold the triangle in half, then unfold.



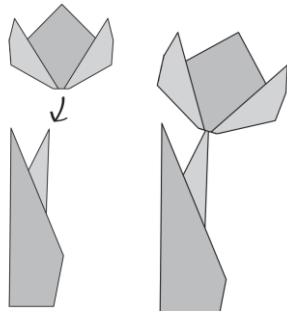
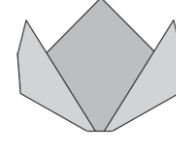
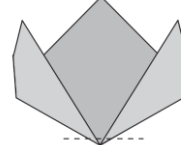
3. Fold the right and left corners up.



4. Fold edges back as shown.



5. Cut a small piece, about a quarter inch, off from the bottom.



Attach to stem.

Observations

- Count the number of folds and think about how they change the shape of the paper squares.
- How does reusing the paper bag make you think differently about reuse/recycling materials?

Extension

- Make larger versions of the tulip using larger pieces of paper.
- Experiment with other types of reusable paper to make a variety of folded flowers.

The Science behind the Activity

Reuse and recycling are quite different, but many people often considered them the same practice.

Recycling is the process of taking material, dismantling it and using the materials to manufacture a new product. Materials or items that get recycled may not always get manufactured into the same product again. Recycling materials saves the resources and energy used during the early steps of the manufacturing process; however, the process of manufacturing recycled products still requires energy and resources.

Reuse involves the process of taking material in its current form and using it for the same or different purpose without changing its original form. The practice of reuse reduces solid waste, conserves even more nonrenewable resources and reduces emissions, such as carbon dioxide released during the manufacturing process.