

Material Needed

- Scrap envelope (large)
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Ribbon, string, or equivalent
- Optional: Stamps, stencils, stickers

Grade Range

- K-2
- 3-5
- 6-8

Topics/Skills

Science: Reducing Human Impacts on Environment;
Math: Measuring Length

Learning Standards

NGSS: [Earth & Space Science](#);
CCSS Math: [Measurement & Data](#)

Duration

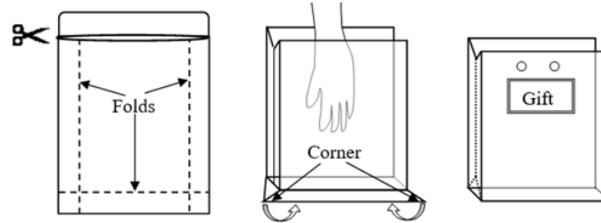
10-15 minutes

Prep Time

5 minutes

Stationery Gift Bags

Create a Gift Bag from a Large Envelope!



Have a great time making and decorating wonderful gift bags made from unused stationery. They are great for birthdays or other significant days of the year.

Activity Challenge

Make a themed gift bag out of a large envelope for a special occasion.

Preparation

1. Review materials list and gather needed items.
2. Decide the theme of the gift bag. What occasion is it for?

To Do

1. Cut off the flap from the envelope.
2. Decorate the outside by creating designs for the theme.
3. Measure 1.5" on all 3 sides and fold the envelope as shown. Press the folds to bend both ways. Wiggle them back and forth.
4. Put your hand inside the envelope. Open it up and fold the corners in.
5. Make the gift bag like a box at the bottom and tape the corners down.
6. Make 2 holes at the top. Put a ribbon or string in the holes to tie it shut.

Observations

What is the largest item that can fit into and carried in the stationery gift bag?
How many and what kind of small recyclable items could fit in the bag?

Extensions

Identify other common items that can be made using recyclable materials. Make an example and share it with another person.

The Content behind the Activity

The flat-bottomed paper bag did not exist until 1870, until Margaret Knight, an industrious female inventor, patented the first machine to produce the bags. Reusing an envelope to make a gift bag is a clever way for people to reduce their impact on the environment. The stationary gift bag can be shared to inspire others to be more proactive about creative reuse of materials. Another benefit of making these gift bags is practice in measuring lengths in standard units (inches and/or centimeters) using a ruler.