

National Arts Standards

Visual Art

Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

VA:Cr2.1.6a

Demonstrate openness in trying new ideas, materials, methods, and approaches in making works of art and design.

VA:Cr2.1.7a

Demonstrate persistence in developing skills with various materials, methods, and approaches in creating works of art or design.

VA:Cr2.1.8a

Demonstrate willingness to experiment, innovate, and take risks to pursue ideas, forms, and meanings that emerge in the process of artmaking or designing.

Additional skills practiced:

- Reflection
- Relating abstract concepts to life experiences

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ARTESTEEMSM ACTIVITY GUIDE

Accordion Book



AHC Principle: We can focus on the whole of life rather than the fragments

Grades: 6th–8th

Overview

There are many different types of books. An **accordion book** is composed of a continuous, folded sheet of paper and can be constructed without stitching. This style of book originated in ancient China and was later developed in Japan, where it is called **orihon**. It wasn't until centuries later that it was called an accordion book because of its resemblance to an **accordion**, which is a musical instrument created in Europe.

This style of book has various names in different parts of the world. These books were used as diaries or journals while traveling, picture books and as a place to write about various subjects that interested the writer. These are some of the same uses we have for them today! Can you think of another way you may want to use your accordion book?

Vocabulary

Accordion Book, Orihon, Accordion, Sequence, Pattern

Materials and Supplies

4 sheets of 8.5 x 11 inch copy paper, glue stick, construction paper

Step by Step Instructions

Step 1.

Fold your 8.5 x 11 inch sheet of paper in half, making sure to match the edges exactly. Repeat this step with the remaining 3 sheets of paper. Imagine you're making four birthday cards!

Mark the front of each folded sheet with an "F". **Make sure to mark the front of all four folded sheets of paper with an "F"! This is a very important step that will help you later!**

Step 2.

Stand two folded sheets of paper together with the "F" sides touching and forming the letters "VA." Repeat this step with your other two sheets. You should have 2 "VA" letter shapes now. Each "VA" letter shape has 2 sheets of paper.

Step 3.

Glue each "VA" letter shape together. REMEMBER that the front of each page has an "F" and those are the pages you should glue together. Arrange your letter shapes to form the letters "VAVA" when standing up. Glue the first "VA" to the second "VA". This particular order (**sequence**) of letters, creates the design where these shapes are repeated (**pattern**) for your book to become an accordion!

Step 4.

Take your construction paper and glue 1 sheet to the front of your book (which is the beginning of the "VAVA"). Glue the second sheet of construction paper to the back of your book (which is the end of the "VAVA"). Now you have completed a book and can write or draw on all of the white sheets in your book! You can also follow steps 1–4 to add more pages. (Then use this step 5 for the book cover/back.)

Clean Up

Clean up your supplies and set your book aside to dry.

Reflection

Using today's Attitudinal Healing Principle, how did the process of creating your book go? Write down your thoughts. Here are some questions you can ask yourself:

- How can I relate creating my accordion book to the principle of focusing on the whole of life rather than the fragments?
- Was there any part of the book-making process where I felt frustrated with a certain step? If yes, what was the step and how did I get through the frustration?
- Do I think that seeing how an accordion book looks, (the whole), helps me understand why I have to follow those certain steps (the fragments) to make it?

Go Further

Consider embellishing the cover of your accordion book using recycled greeting cards, stickers, glitter, magazine clippings, an original drawing, beads and so on.

Add a closure: glue a ribbon or piece of string into each end of the cover to close the book, or use a rubber band.

Try different formats: There are many different ways you can vary this accordion book format. Consider:

- using different sized paper - cutting your 8.5 x 11 inch paper in half and folding the papers smaller, can help you achieve a pocket size book
- layering two accordion books to make a book bigger than 10 sheets
- layering one smaller strip over a large one and making a pocket
- playing with the general shape of the book

Look up "accordion book" online to find more inspiration.

