
Make a Paper Fortune Teller with Courtney Cerruti

Chapter 1 - Make a Paper Fortune Teller

Overview

- I love working with paper because it's two dimensional, but with a few simple folds or sculpting, it can become three dimensional. I'm Courtney. I'm an artist and author and a paper lover, and I'm gonna show you how to turn a flat piece of paper into a very cute and customizable fortune teller or chatterbox. We'll start with a square piece of paper. We'll add actions and decorations with colors and stamps, and then we'll fold it up and make a paper toy. What's great about this is that you can fold it back flat and take it on the go, put it in a purse or in your wallet, and the next time you're waiting in line or at the restaurant for your food, you can pull this out and have a game to occupy your kids. But paper toys are not just for kids. I'm gonna make one for myself too.

Materials

- To make your fortune teller or chatter box, you can actually just use very simple materials. A square piece of text weight paper and markers. But we're gonna add a few other fun elements, including rubber stamps. If you don't want to draw or you don't like your handwriting, I always go to rubber stamps in these cases. And so I have some numbers and letters as well as a fun little polka dot here. And because I do love rubber stamps, I also have the stuff to clean our rubber stamps. This is a little stamp cleaner. It also might come in a spray bottle. And this is to scrub your stamp. I've got three different colors of ink: black, a turquisey blue and neon pink, my favorite. And then for adding more color, I really like these kids' tempera sticks. They're a little bit like a lipstick, but they're quick drying so they won't smear. And I have them in four colors. And I also have just a marker for making some notes because we're gonna make a mockup first.

Fold the fortune teller

- I've already cut my text weight paper into a square. And you can do this in any size, but this one happens to be eight and a half square. And first we're gonna do our folds and then we're gonna unfold it and make our marks. And this is gonna be our mockup. And this will help us know what orientation to place our text when we actually create the fortune teller. We're gonna start by folding it in half, and line up your corners as best you can. Unfold, rotate, fold in half again and you get a plus. Then we're gonna rotate it and fold corner to corner. I'm a little off on that corner. Let's see if I can line it up again. Marginally better. And then rotate and fold, corner to corner on this side. So now we have a star - a plus and an x - and now we're gonna take each corner and fold it to the center. Again, just try to line up your points and make sure your folds are parallel. You don't want any overlapping. It's better if they don't meet than for them to overlap. 26 Now it looks like an envelope. And our last fold into the center. This is sort of a high quality text weight paper, so it's a little bit thicker, which is nice to work with. If you had something like card stock, this would become very difficult. So text weight is actually the best. All right, so there's our square. Now we're gonna flip it over. The side has no openings and we're gonna take the corner and fold back right to the center and just rotate. And even though we're flipping back and forth, we're actually just gonna decorate one side of this. The fold is what creates kind of all the different dimensions, which makes it actually really easy to then photocopy if you wanna make multiples. Okay, so those are all of our folds. We're gonna pick it up, refold where we've already folded it just to kind of get it working. And

then these flaps, your forefinger and thumb are gonna go under to pop this into a 3D shape. So just shimmy your fingers there, and you may have to just maneuver if - I have like a little cross over there, so I just had to pop that out. And this is what our final form is gonna look like. This is hard to decorate once it's all folded. But what we're gonna do is make notes so we know the orientation as we go on each layer and then unfold it and use it as our guide to decorate one from scratch. So this is a bit awkward if you're only one person, you only have two hands. But we're going to start by just writing a number. You could also use a letter if you prefer, but numbers are usually used. So this will tell me the orientation. So one, I'll do this on the table a little bit. Two, you could see why this would be hard to decorate. These are just our notes, three and four. Okay, so now I'll know the orientation when we go to unfold it. And we'll do the same thing on the inside. So as best you can, and doesn't matter what numbers you choose here, you could do letters if that's easier. This looks very wonky, but it's just our mock up. Okay, so I have a two, an A, a B and a C. Fine. And then we'll open to this and we'll do the same. That's the bottom. And then when I open, this is where you'd write your fortune. I just usually do arrows, so I know this is the orientation, so you could use all arrows too. Whatever mockup makes the most sense for you. Okay, and I'm looking at this, and this looks a little wonky, so I'm just gonna put it, make sure this A I can read better. Okay, so if we look at our notes, all of our numbers or letters should be facing upright. These are facing out in the four orientations. You can cap your pen, and then when you open this now you can see what direction everything needs to go in. And if your writing was a bit wobbly like mine is 'cause I was holding at the same time, you can just go over and tidy this up and then you can keep this as your mockup. Like that was an A, a D. Lemme put a line there. And this will be our map for making our decorated paper fortune teller.

Decorate and play

- Now is the fun part because we get to decorate. I've already folded the fortune teller and then unfolded it so it's flat. We've got our map, and then I've gathered my supplies. Remember, you can just use markers. You don't have to have these tempera sticks, you don't have to have stamps. But if you already have them on hand and you like to use them, this is a good time to do so. I'm gonna start with my corners. And I like to use color. So these are the tempera sticks. They work a little bit like lipstick, but they dry, and I love them because you can just add a big swatch of color really fast. So we'll do pink in that corner, red in that corner. Blue, and then yellow. - I eventually wanna stamp the color names on top of these four corners, but they have to dry for a minute. If we go to the next layer, these spots, I wanna do numbers. I know my map has letters and numbers in a willy nilly fashion, but I probably will be playing this with my daughter who's almost six and she's learning to read, so we're gonna keep it numbers 'cause she's very, very familiar with that. And then pretty simple words when we get to the words. And I'll use letter stamps for that. So numbers next. I love kids' supplies, hence the tempera sticks. And these stamps I've had for a long time and they, I think they originally came from like one of those teacher supply stores, but I like how big and bold they are. So make sure your map is still visible and they don't actually have to be in order. I'm gonna use the turquoise blue. And if you haven't rubber stamped before, I like to do little taps until you get your stamp covered in ink. And if you have a piece of paper, you can use a scratch paper. You can always test it first. You wanna try to avoid the corners, but some kids' stamps aren't etched very deeply and so the corners are pretty common. Okay, one, I'm just gonna stick it over here on my stamp cleaner. One side is wet and one side is dry. And then two. So if I look at my map, the orientation is upside down or slightly sideways depending on how you wrote it. But I know it goes

upside down here. Three, look at my map. Three goes like kind of like this, or sideways, whichever way. Put it back. 60 00:03:02,320 --> 00:03:03,320 Looking at my map, the four is going this direction. And just try to stay in the triangle, that fold. And I'll continue with my numbers all the way around. Okay, so there are all of our numbers. Now I'm gonna add the action words. So if this is a fortune teller, it could tell a fortune, but I think it's fun to make a paper toy that tells you to sing or dance or clap. And like I said, because I have a young child, I'm keeping it to really simple words. I'm gonna use my letter stamps for putting in those actions and still referring to my map so that I have the orientation correct. Get out all my letters, JUMP, and you can actually like rubber band these together or washi tape them together and stamp them as a word. But I wanna use them individually so I can make sure that they fit in the tiny little area here. And I'm actually gonna leave the center. So if we look back, I'm actually gonna leave this empty to decorate. So I'm just gonna put my action, this triangle that's opposite the number. So it can be sideways. You just wanna make sure that the letters are not upside down. So I know that my map says they go this way, JUMP. And I won't actually wash these off until I'm done stamping all of my actions. So maybe SING next, looking at my map. So also up like this. And then I'm gonna rotate this because now I know that it's always going up. So as long as I rotate for each section, then I know that my words can always go in this orientation. For the center square, I wanna decorate it and say DO THIS. So do these different actions. And I'm gonna do a little circle in the center. I could just use the tempera sticks. But I like this stamp that has an irregular little shape. So I'm gonna use that. And my hot pink. Stamp that right in the center. And I have these little stamps, one's a hand, and I have one that's an arrow. So I'm gonna stamp these and the words DO THIS around it also, I might do the words first. So DO, I'm gonna do that on both sides because it's only four words. Like DO THIS, DO THIS twice. So opposites. And then we'll put this curling around the center like that. And then maybe we'll add the little hands and arrows in here. So we'll do every other. 117 00:06:50,725 --> 00:06:50,845 And again, you could draw this, you could use different stamps. All right, I think that's looking pretty good. Our map was helpful. And once you've done one, you know you can customize this to sort of any theme. You could actually write fortunes instead of actions. But I like this as an approach for this particular one. And we're gonna go back in and stamp our color names on top of this. And I'm gonna use the all caps that I have in the alphabet stamps with black ink. And then I'll wash all my rubber stamps after. So looking back at our map, I know that these color names have to go upside down essentially when I'm rotating. So if I was doing red here, it would be upside down. I'm gonna actually rotate it toward me so that I can do it this direction. - I, - Okay, so I know as long as I rotate, I can stamp this way. And I picked colors that would be pretty small, like just a few letters. "Yellow" is our exception, so we'll have to try to make that one fit. Now we can fold it up. The paper has a memory, so it will help you refold. Gonna slip our fingers under the colors. And you might need two hands 'cause you have to press from all corners to the center. You ready to play? Red you say? R-e-d. Four? 1, 2, 3, 4. Let's pick three. That's my favorite number. "Hop." You have to hop. These can be customized with other numbers, colors, actual fortunes. This one is for myself. This is using a slightly larger piece of paper. I think it was 12 inches square. And it's a Strathmore drawing paper so that I could watercolor paint on it. And this doesn't have any action in it, it's just to look at. It makes me happy. So it has the primary colors plus green, and then inside are stripings of those same colors. And then when you lift this up, each section has words that reflect the color above. So if I open this fully up, the colors for green, colors for red and pink colors for yellow and orange and colors for blue. And I still have to fill some of this in. And this was just like a fun thing to make and it makes me happy. And I don't know exactly how I'm going to use it, but I liked the format of the

fortune color to just play with color. So I think that might evolve. This one is actually a printable from our site and it also uses color, but more for creative prompts and play. And then these, I actually got on Etsy and I just love the illustrator. I'll put a link to her Etsy shop. And then it has different words like expand, ascend, engage, complete. It says to rise, to heal, to move, to freedom, and has these sweet little illustrations inside. And this one says, make your own sacred circle. Can I get some privacy? I'm casting a spell over here. So these are, I would say more teen to adult in theme, although I could also still use these with my daughter. She may not understand all of it because of her age. But I like these examples because they show the capacity for something as simple as a paper toy can be elevated by the content you choose to add to it. And what's also nice, because they're all one side, they could be photocopied and shared with friends.