

Learning through Zine Making

We have learned a ton from many artists and makers about the magic of Zines, but we have also learned a lot about what kind of learning happens when children make their own. Using the [Exploratorium's Learning Dimension Framework](#) as an observational tool, here of some of the learning themes you can expect to see in this activity:

Engagement

With simple folding tricks and exciting supplies, Zine making appeals to all ages. We consistently see:

- Kids spending 30-60 minutes making
- Children choosing to make a second or third Zine
- Big expressions of emotions and investment in their Zines

Social Emotional Connections

Storytelling is an activity that lends itself to explorations of personal identity and social practices. We consistently see:

- Children telling stories about their lives, their family, and their friends
- Kids making projects they intend to share with parents, siblings, and friends
- Children telling stories they think are important to be shared with others

Initiative

When given the chance to author their own stories, the ideas are quick to come and plentiful! We consistently see:

- Kids setting their own goals and intentions for their mini books
- Kids working through challenges of folding, taping, and constructing to achieve their goals
- Kids comparing, sharing, and taking inspiration from each other



Zine Making Kit Facilitation Guide

Zines or mini books are a hit with all ages at Bubbler programs! With simple materials and some basic techniques, the possibilities for storytelling are endless. This is a great activity for kids, teens, and adults alike!

- All Ages
- Medium Facilitation Needs to get started
- 30 min to 1.5 hours
- Drop in or Workshop settings
- Great for large groups or individual making

Materials in this kit:

- Copy paper
 - Legal and Standard Size
- Colorful/Art Paper (for covers)
- Scissors
- Colored pencils
- Fine tipped markers or pens
- Washy tape
- Die Cut shapes
- Glue Sticks
- White School Glue
- Rubber Stamps
- Stickers or Other Decorating Materials

Things to know:

Create Opportunities for Storytelling

There are lots of great ways to generate ideas from "draw and pass" stories, to "how to manuals," or variations of a Story Cube activity, but often just the act of folding and making a Zine is enough to spark an idea. Be open to reading a book for inspiration or simply showing your students how to make a Zine and see where their imagination goes from there.

Fun Materials Enhance the Activity

You can make Zine with any old kind of paper, but having washy tape or scrapbooking paper on hand for covers and enhancements increases engagement and investment.

Take the time

Making a Zine takes only 15-20 minutes, but writing one and sharing with each other can take up to an hour. It's best to have more time for the activity, and also more supplies so kids aren't limited to just 1.

Inspirational texts



Whatcha Mean, What's a Zine? The Art of Making Zines and Minicomics
Esther Pearl Watson and Marak Todd



Open This Little Book
Jesse Klausmeier



Make a Zine: Start Your Own Underground Publishing Revolution
Bill Brent and Joe Biel



The Book With No Pictures
B.J. Novak



Created by Rebecca Millerjohn & the Bubbler team
www.madisonbubbler.org



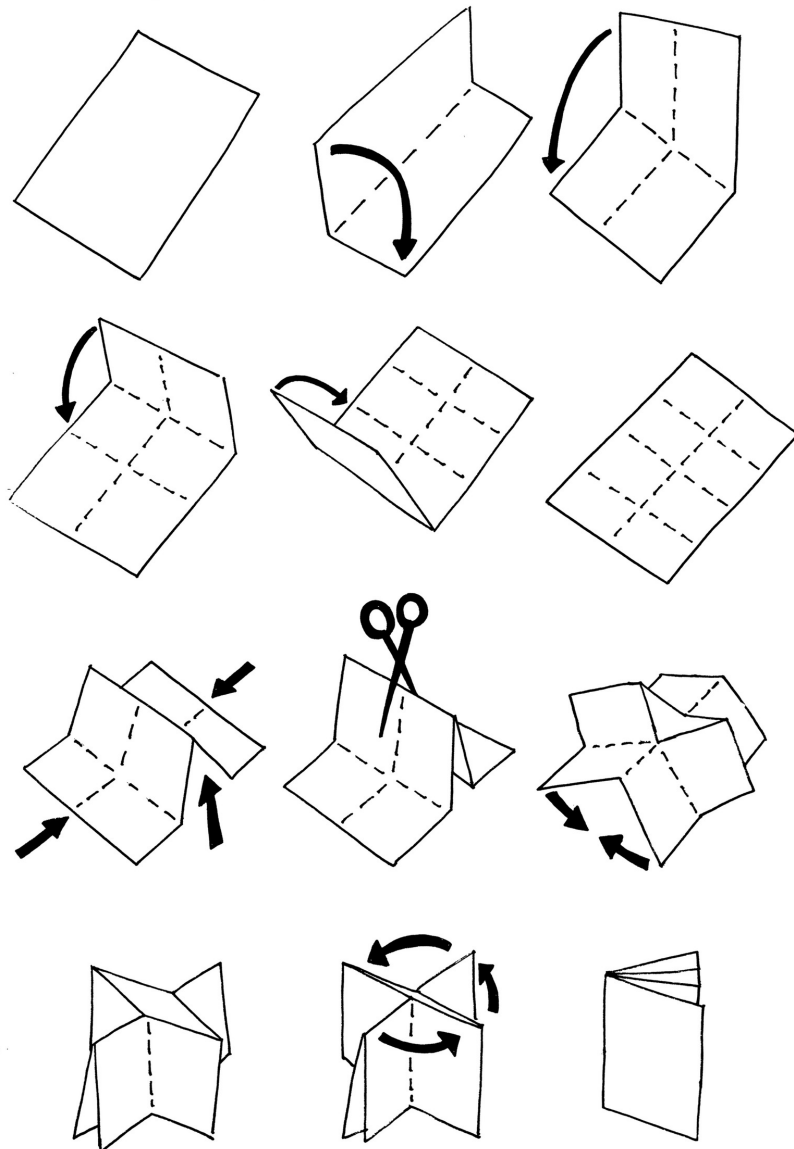
Folding Your Zine!

Skills to model:

This type of fold can be done with any sized paper.

- 8.5 X 11 will produce a skinny, rectangular sized zine, great for fitting inside a jean pocket.
- 8.5 X 13 Legal sized paper will produce a square zine.
- 11 X 13 Poster size paper will produce a small pamphlet or playbill sized zine.

How to fold a zine

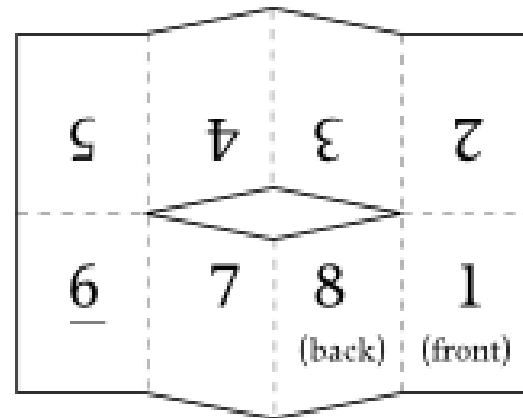


By www.tellatale.org.uk

Knowing your page numbers

It can be helpful to number the pages before you fold if it is easier to draw your designs when the paper is flat.

*Note: you will want to flip your paper over so some of the drawings aren't upside down!



Add a Cover

Having fun paper or even cardboard to create a unique cover makes your Zine feel even more legit.

Taping the Edges

By enclosing the open edges of your folded zine with washy tape, you can create "secret pockets" which are very appealing for passing notes or including hidden elements.



Storytelling Activities



Story Cubes or Story Shapes

Reluctant writers or unsure of how to get started?

Use story cubes or die cut shapes to give some inspiration. Use a different shape for each page of your Zine to tell a silly, unexpected story.

Incorporating die cut shapes is a great way to ease tensions around "I can't draw!" while also adding color.



Draw or Stamp and Pass

Write a collective Story!

Fold your paper into the 8 boxes you will need for a zine. Then, do a draw and pass. Draw a monster! - pass the paper - draw a house! - pass the paper - draw a weird shape! - etc.

Once the paper has returned to it's original owner, try and write the story that has been illustrated for you. This also works great with rubber stamps for smaller children.

Create a "How To" Guide

Best for older kiddos, teens, or adults

What does it look like to break something down into 8 easy steps? Challenge participants to do just that in zine form - this can be through drawings, words or both! Start by writing up a number of "How To" prompts on different slips of paper... *how to hook up a garden hose, how to make the best PB&J sandwich, how to climb a tree, how to save the world, how to acquire four unicorns...* then have each participant pull a prompt from a jar. Give them time to settle in and create. We've found that 15-20 minutes is a sweet spot. Then use time to share stories, encouraging students to read theirs aloud to the group.

A different take on this same activity - use the SAME prompt for all participants and see how they each break it down into 8 easy steps. After reading aloud, talk about the similarities and differences you see.

"Top 8" Zine

Following a similar structure create prompts around "The Top 8 _____" such as... *top 8 ways to get from Point A to Point B, top 8 songs of all time, top 8 teachers you've ever had, top 8 tools for building, top 8 creepy clowns.*

Foam Block Prints for Illustrations

Incorporate printmaking to have reproducible images!

By making simple stamps or block prints, you can create an illustration that can be used multiple times to create multiple copies of the same story.



See the [Bubblers "Foam Block Printing" Facilitation guide](#) for a step by step!