How to make a sketchbook

This pack is aimed at children from age 9+ and can support KS2 curriculum in:

- Art and Design
  - Create sketchbook
  - Mastery of art techniques
- Maths
  - Measure, compare lengths

Do you know what a sketchbook is?

A sketchbook is a book that an artist might use. Each artist uses their sketchbooks in their own way. They might keep it private like a diary or share it with others. Some artists buy books to use, others make their own.

An artist might do any of the following in their sketchbook:

- write about or draw things that they have seen that they want to remember
- record ideas that they might have for an art work
- stick in photographs, newspaper clippings, tickets, small things they find
• try out a new way of drawing or painting
• develop ideas.

Here is an example of a sketchbook:

This is a page from a sketchbook by an artist called Stephen Chaplin. He makes his own sketchbooks.

Every day Chaplin does a drawing in his sketchbook of something he has seen. He also sticks things in, like a small packet of sugar that came with a coffee he had on a train, or a leaflet that he found interesting.

On this page, you can see a drawing of an ice cream van, a cricket match on a TV and some rooftops in Leeds.

Would you like to make a sketchbook? Keep reading to find out how.
How to make a sketchbook: instructions

What you need

You need the following materials:

- Piece of A3 paper cut to 42cm x 28cm
  (If you cannot get A3 you can stick two pieces of A4 (long sides) together to make A3.)
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Scissors
Method

1. Take a piece of A3 paper.
   
   Cut this paper down in size to 28cm x 42cm.

2. Using your ruler to measure along the top long edge of the paper, make a mark at 10.5cm from the left side.

   Then do the same for 21cm and 10.5cm from the right.

   Do it all again along the bottom edge.
3. Measure and make a mark 14cm along both the short edges.

4. Fold the paper from the top at the 21cm mark down to the bottom 21cm mark.
   Do the same at the 10.5cm Left marks.
   Then the 10.5cm Right marks.
5. Fold the paper from the 14cm mark on the short side all the way across the page. Your paper should now look like this:

Where the fold at 10.5cm RIGHT crosses the fold at 14cm make a mark.

6. Cut along the folded line from the left short edge to the mark you just made.
7. Place the piece of paper on a table with the short, cut side closest to you. Starting with the left-hand side fold the paper along the fold lines you have already made, folding over and under as if you were making a fan.
8. Your book should look like this when open and closed:

Congratulations! You have made a sketchbook!
What will you put in yours?

Share

Please share photos of your sketchbooks with us online:

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