

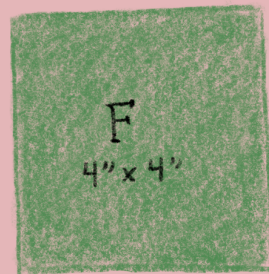
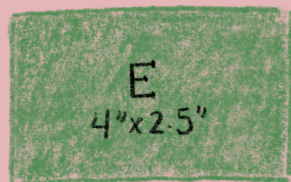
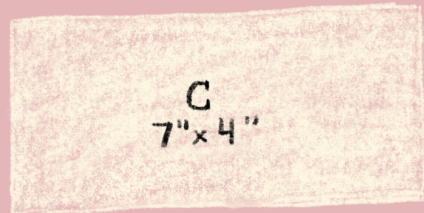
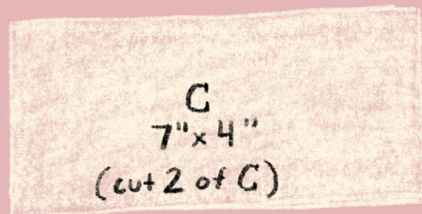
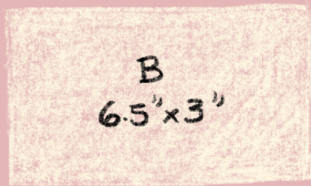
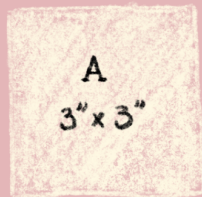
Supplies Check List



Hello! Welcome to the tutorial page for students. By following the instructions on this website, you will create a paper chrysanthemum flower. Along the way, you will learn about the history of the flowers, and their origins in the Japanese American internment camps during World War II.

Before you start, make sure you have all the materials you need!

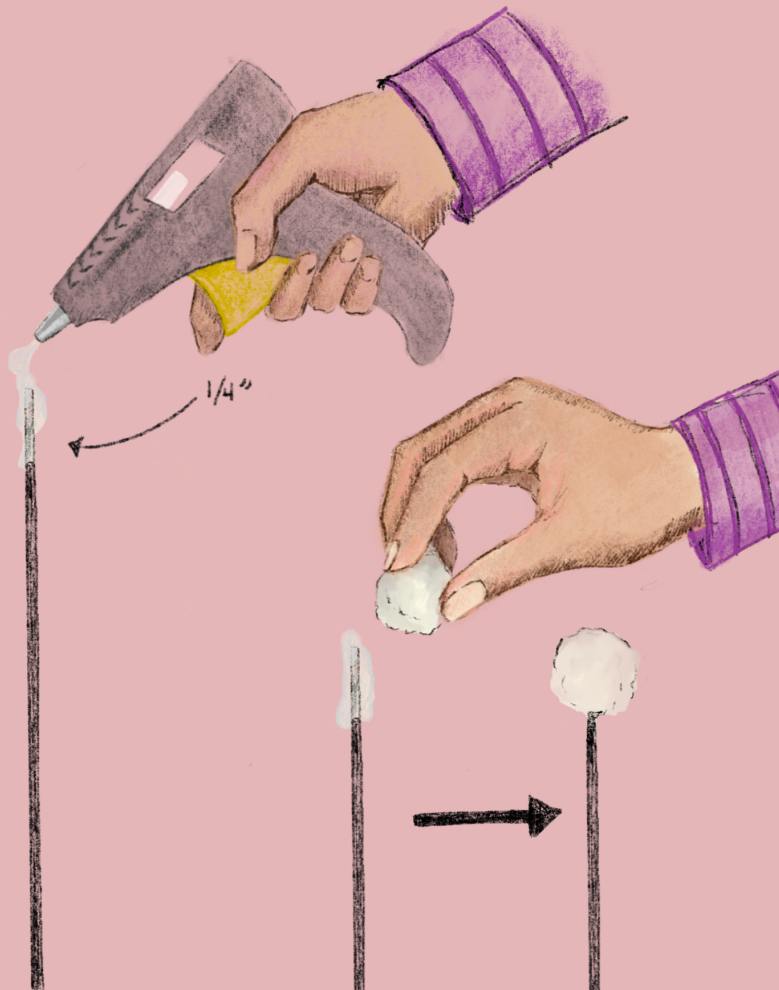
1. prepping the paper: cut white paper into A-D pieces & green paper into E & F



VERY IMPORTANT: Crate paper has a "grain" to it, like wood. When you hold a piece of it standing straight up, if you hold it on one side, it will fall over. If you hold it on another side of the paper, it will stand up. When cutting the paper into rectangles, MAKE SURE to cut it so that the long side of the paper is perpendicular to the grain. The "lines" of the grain should be parallel to the short side, and when you hold it, it should not fall over. If you cut it incorrectly, the petals will not properly curl up towards the center of the flower.

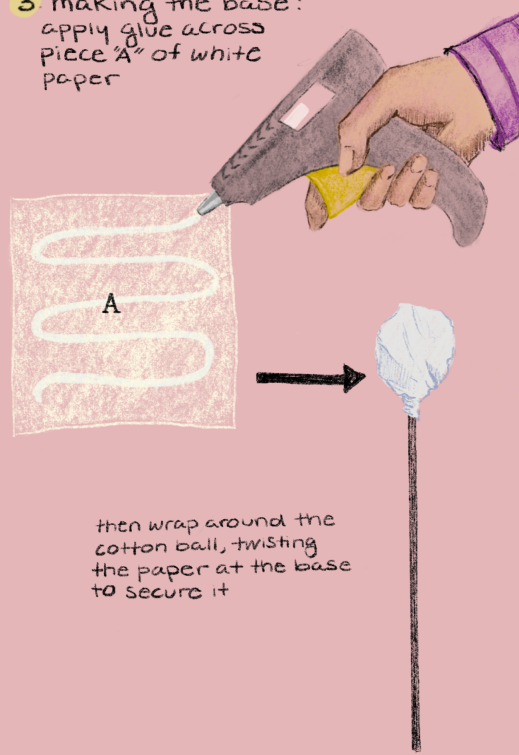
STEP: Crate paper can be bought from crafts stores. For this project, chrysanthemums can be many colors such as white, yellow, orange, red, pink, purple, or lavender. However, the stems are always green. Make sure you have a color for the petals and stem. You can also use two different shades of the same color to add depth to the flower.

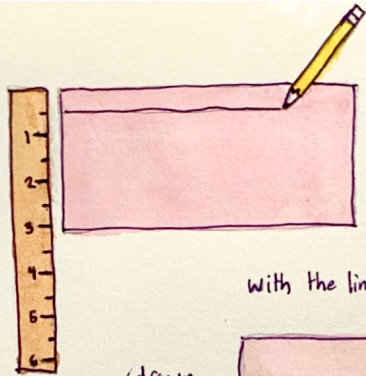
2. making the base: add glue to the top $\frac{1}{4}$ " of the wire, then secure a cotton ball



HISTORY: In December 1941, the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese Navy Air Service catalyzed the United States' formal entry into World War II, precipitating a rapid escalation of anti-Japanese xenophobia within American political and social spheres. This culminated on February 19, 1942, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066. The directive mandated the forced removal and incarceration of approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans—two-thirds of whom were citizens—into remote concentration camps administered by the War Relocation Authority (WRA).

3. making the base: apply glue across piece 'A' of white paper

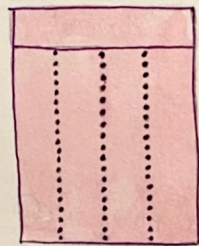
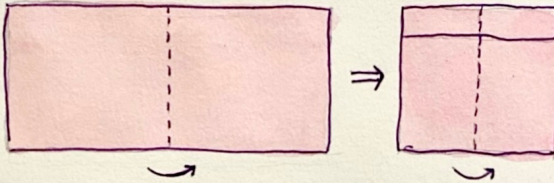




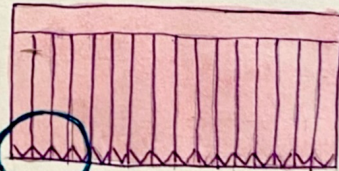
③ take paper piece 'B' and draw a line $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch from the top.

with the line facing out, fold the paper in half twice.

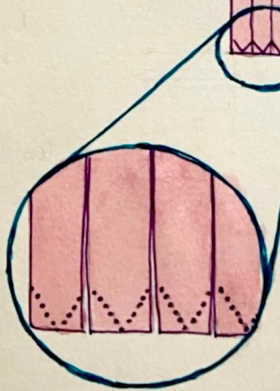
(drawn line facing down)



④ cut evenly spaced strips up to the pencil line.



(you may need to cut a few strips in half after unfolding)



⑤ unfold the paper and cut angles at the ends of each strip to make them more petal-like

HISTORY: Displaced from their homes and stripped of many personal belongings, incarcerated were tasked with rebuilding daily life in stark and unfamiliar environments. Situated largely within the deserts of the Western United States, inhabitants often faced extreme weather conditions with high heat and severe dust storms in the summer, and freezing temperatures in the winter. Within these landscapes, various creative practices became a critical site of psychological, social, and environmental reclamation. Arts and crafts served as more than aesthetic distractions; they were profound assertions of agency and cultural continuity, allowing individuals to transform militarized spaces into inhabitable, somewhat familiar ones.

STEP: Prepare the petals by folding and cutting the pink pieces of crate paper. **Repeat the same folding, measuring, and cutting process, with the B, C, and D pages.**

6. curling the petals: unfold "B"; gently curl the paper inwards with a closed pair of scissors

* be sure to cut the remaining strips



7. attaching the petals: apply glue to the bottom of the paper & attach to the base of the cotton ball & wire

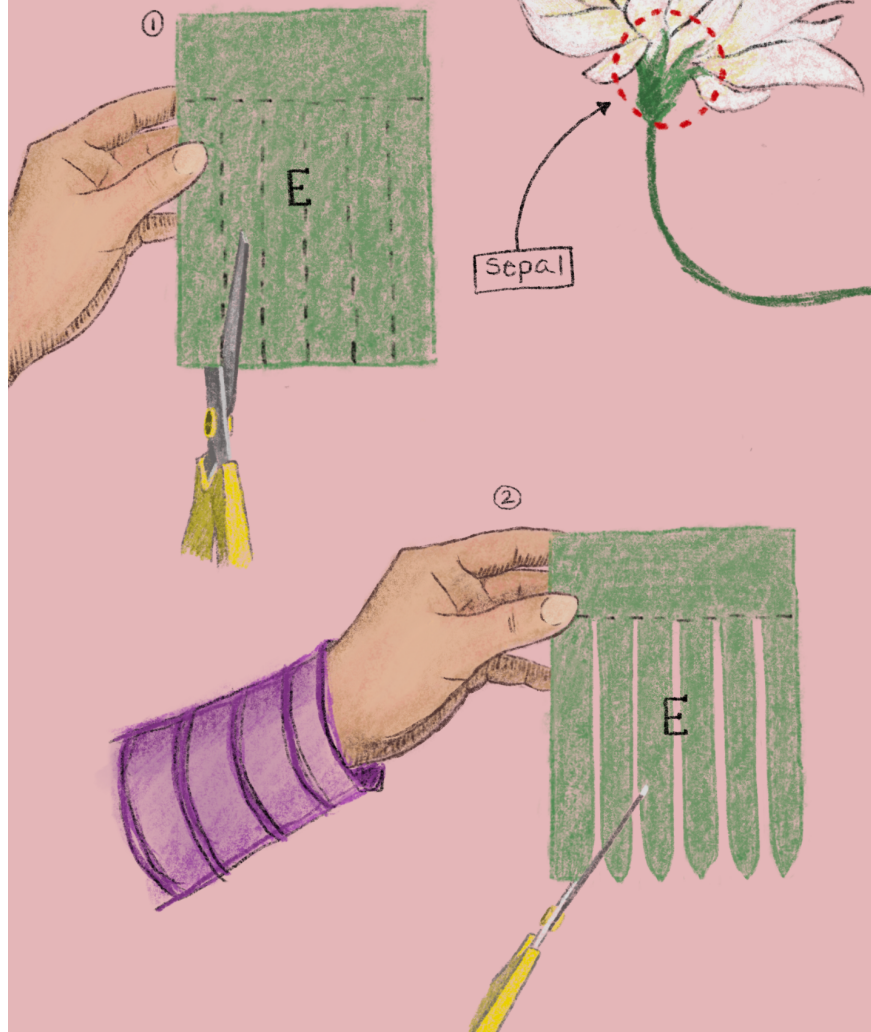


* wrap tight

HISTORY: A primary medium of this cultural reliance was the construction of intricate paper flower arrangements. This practice, largely sustained by women within the camps, relied on a complex interplay of available and improvised materials. This included found resources such as magazine pages, catalog paper, and even the colorful lining within fruit crates. However, not all materials were improvised—some individuals were able to access or purchase crepe paper, silk scraps, and other craft supplies through camp canteens, mail orders, or prewar belongings. This range allowed for varying levels of intricacy and realism, from resourceful constructions to highly refined floral forms that drew on existing artistic knowledge and cultural traditions.

STEP: Hold the bottom of the piece of paper with your non-dominant hand. With your dominant hand, open a pair of scissors and hold one blade pinched between your fingers. Put a petal in between your thumb and the scissor blade. Starting where the petal meets the bottom of the paper, pinch pull the paper against the scissor blade and your thumb at an angle gently. The petal should be curled when you're done. Repeat this for each petal. When you have the curled pages, wrap them around the stem. The smaller pages should be closer towards the center of the flower, and the larger pieces should be used for the outside of the flower.

12. making the sepal, take piece "G1" of green paper & repeat steps like with the "B" pages

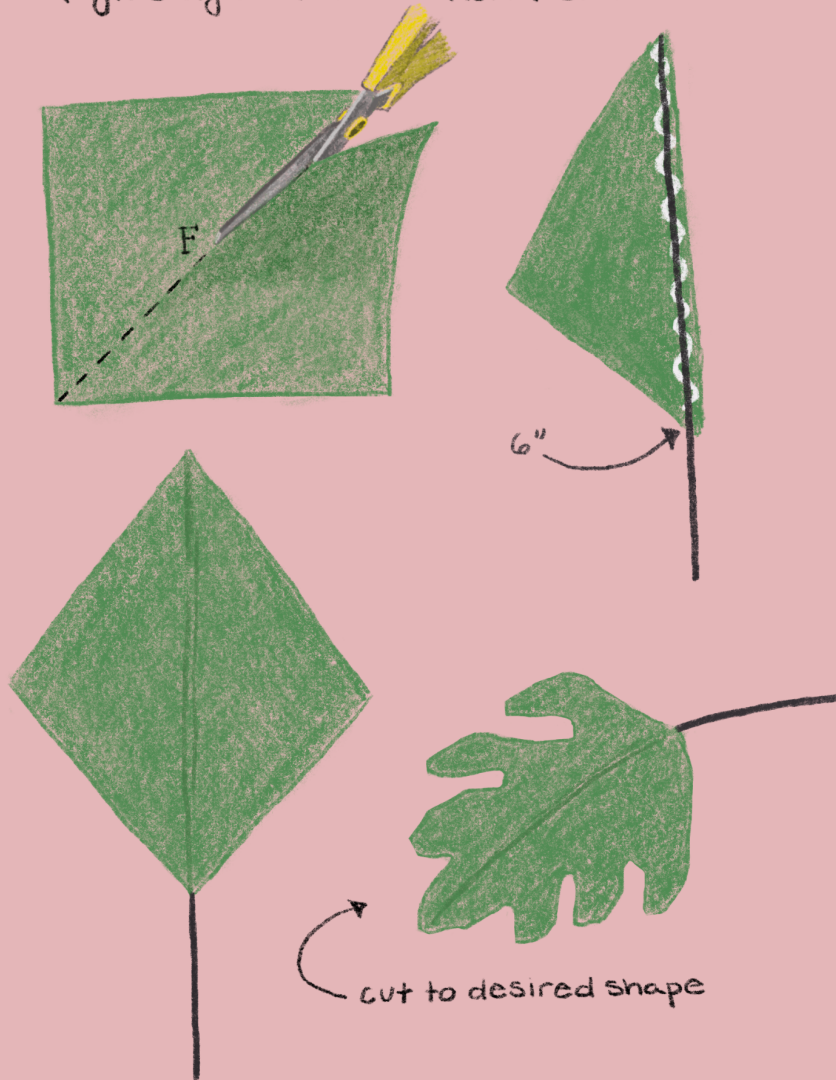


HISTORY: Paper flowers were used to adorn living quarters, soften the harshness of barracks, and mark important communal and personal events. Weddings, in particular, were often decorated with elaborate handmade flowers. Community members frequently gathered prior to these occasions, contributing their labor to create beauty for moments of celebration, and underscoring their role in sustaining connection, care, and ritual within confinement.

Beyond their decorative utility, paper flowers functioned as semiotic links to ancestral tradition. By meticulously recreating countless species, including chrysanthemums, incarcerated individuals invoked Japanese floral symbolism—representing longevity, renewal, and the transience of life. By recreating these forms, incarcerated individuals maintained ties to cultural practices like ikebana (the art of traditional Japanese flower arrangements) while adapting them to the realities of camp life. This blending of tradition and improvisation reflects how art functioned not only as survival but as a way to carry forward identity and meaning.

STEP: After the petals are done, add the green sepal. If it is not sticking around the stem, feel free to use scotch tape, as it will be covered by flower tape in the next step.

13. making the leaf: cut "F" paper diagonally. Then, take both halves & glue against wire or floral stem



HISTORY: In a landscape defined by ecological hostility and state surveillance, the cultivation of such beauty constituted a form of quiet resistance. Through their symbolic and transformational potential, this simple craft represents what scholars describe as a "counter landscape," one that brought color, texture, and vitality to otherwise monotonous surroundings. In regions where natural flora could not thrive, these paper blossoms stood in their place, asserting a refusal to be defined solely by the environmental conditions of confinement.

STEP: Make and cut out a leaf using more green paper and wire.



When the petals and sepal are attached, use the floral tape and wrap it around the wire stem to make it thicker

HISTORY: Viewed through a contemporary lens, the history of paper flower making intersects with the urgent discourse of environmental justice and the systemic marginalization of bodies through land use. The strategic placement of WWII incarceration camps on “useless” land, often Native American reservations, prefigures the modern operations of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Present-day detention centers are frequently sited in “sacrifice zones,” ones adjacent to industrial polluters or ecologically hazardous spaces, where the environment itself serves as an extension of state discipline.



As you wrap the floral tape down the stem, attach the leaf by inserting its stem parallel to the flower's stem and secure it with the tape

STEP: Create the stem by wrapping the tape down the length of the wire, adding the leaf during the process.

HISTORY: The historical trajectory from the WRA to ICE reveals a persistent carceral continuum in which the state utilizes environmental degradation as a tool of coercion. Here, the paper flowers were often a direct response to a landscape rendered barren both by nature and systemic neglect. Today, they remain powerful symbols of resilience, creativity, and community, reflecting not only the injustices of incarceration but the ways Japanese Americans sustained life, beauty, and cultural meaning within it.

STEP: Your flower should be complete!

