

PAPER MARBLING

Create a design on the surface of paper using a marbling technique. Then, reuse the paper to send a letter, or make something like a bookmark or collage. Be inspired by artist William Weege, who likes to experiment with handmade paper in his art.

SUPPLIES

- large shallow dish such as a baking dish or pan
- shaving cream
- paper—cardstock or construction paper is best
- spatula
- butter knife or bamboo skewer
- food coloring
- ruler





Inspiration Image: William Weege, DeForest Concerto for Strings, 1978. Construction of four layers of paper mesh with hand painting. 35.5 in. x 35.5 in. Collection of the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art. Purchase, through a National Endowment for the Arts Grant with matching funds contributed by museum members.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fill a shallow dish with shaving cream and use a spatula to smooth it out. White foam cream (not gel) works best. If working with very small children that may put their hands in their mouth, consider using whipped cream instead.



2. Add drops of food coloring onto the shaving cream surface. Using a spatula, gently mix to blend the color into the shaving cream.



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INSTRUCTIONS CONTINUED

3. Add drops of a second and third color to the shaving cream. This time, instead of mixing it in, run a butter knife or bamboo skewer through the colors, dragging gently through the shaving cream. Try to make sure there are no blank spaces, while also not mixing up the colors too much.



4. Lay a piece of cardstock or construction paper on the shaving cream. Press the back of the paper very gently to ensure the front of the paper has full contact with the shaving cream.



5. Starting at one end, pull up the paper. Scrape off the excess shaving cream with a ruler in one continuous movement to reveal the marbling. Allow it to dry.



6. Once dry, put your new paper to use! Write letters, cut out shapes for a banner or bookmark, or use the pieces in mixed-media art. You can also experiment using different kinds of paper or cardboard, trying many colors of dye at the same time, or trying other color mediums such as watered down paint.



KEY WORDS

Mixed-media art uses more than one kind of art supply. For example, you might paint a picture and then glue cut pieces of paper or other materials over the painting.