WORKSHEET 3: POP-UP LANDSCAPES

Building a simple pop-up
Decide if you card is going to stand landscape or portrait and which form (or forms) you are using. With the first two cards remember you have a background and a foreground that can also be decorated - or written on

Form A
Fold your card in half. Make 2 cuts about 2 cm long and 2 cm apart. (You could make another set of these cuts, maybe shorter ones for a second pop-up)
Gently push the section inside the cuts into the body of the card, folding firmly. Open the card again and you should have a step ready for a pop-up feature to be added

Form B
Fold your card in half. Take a strip, fold this in half and half again, open out and it should give you a step. Glue this into the gutter of the main card, keeping everything at right angles and carefully making a square or a box with that strip.
More pop-ups? Add another strip along the main gutter

Use A7 sized card or maybe A6 (no rules, experiment) to draw the feature you want to pop-up and stick, colour it, cut it out and stick it in. Cutting the shape generally looks better than just slapping in another rectangle. Watch that glue only goes on the upright face of the step.
Watch the size of your pop-up, sometimes they will peep over the top or side of your card. You might trim them or draw them into the cover of the card so that the pop-up becomes a feature of that as well

Another movement: use a smaller strip that could go in the gutter of your first strip to give some layers of action

Worksheet prepared by Creeping Toad
**Portrait cards:** if you are using card strip steps, these often look better with a longer face.

![Portrait card](image1)

**Form C: Opened flat cards**
Here we need to build pop-up structures that will support features, again thinking about gutters and faces.

**Add another feature:** another smaller strip that could go in the gutter of your first strip to give some layers of action.

Think forwards and backwards here: there isn't a background card to decorate there is only floor. so think about building a background.

**Hollow form** (a bit fiddly but very exciting)
Fold a strip on card, overlapping the end and glueing (or use double-sided tape) that closed. Cut and fold as shown. This gives us a hollow form that could be cut to make a 3-d shape eg a pirate ship. Or there could be different foreground and background features (I said it was fiddly)

The same principle can be used to make good stand-up houses: longer strips can have their ends folded in so they open out into more of a box.
With all of these styles, introduce the basic idea and use that with most groups. Within those simple “steps and gutters”, people can experiment and improvise and create wonderful objects. A workshop or an event dedicated to pop-ups could move into the hollow-flat forms and bigger structures. Using steps and gutters, we made the spooky towers in the photos. Using travel magazines also offer wonderful backgrounds and plundering prints of old masters gave a whole new dimension to the work of van Gogh and Picasso.

“What happened next? or “who is this person” were the questions that went with chosen prints and revealed whole stories that our famous artists quite possibly never knew where there behind their paintings.

Materials

For each pop-up you will need
1 x A5 (or A4) card for each pop-up
allow maybe 2 x A6 cards for features, movements and mistakes

For the group as a whole:
scissors
pencils
coloured pencils
(glue
craft knife and cutting board maybe (staff use only)

Exciting extras: scraps of other papers for colours or textures
oil pastilles for backgrounds
fine felt-tip pens for writing in and around sculptures
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Notes

Introduction
Pop-up cards are a popular and often enchanting way of drawing ideas together or giving people a chance to integrate their new knowledge of an idea or a place into a quick creative form. There are lots and lots of folds and movements you could use but we will only use basic one here: easy to explain and deliver to a class of 30 children.

I use them anywhere from stately homes to nature reserves, city streets to sessions on classical artists.

Time needed: the simple Form A can be made in 20 minutes but the more time you can give the process, the more detailed and interesting the result. A 90 minute workshop building up to incorporating lots of new ideas or discoveries into a pop-up works well, allowing maybe 30 minutes at the end for the actual assembling of the card sculpture.

Helpful hints

Glue: PVA glue is best - stronger than gluesticks but whatever you use encourage people to be careful. Enthusiastic application of adhesive can literally glue your card together.

Structures: avoid zigzag folds that are great for lifting something in the middle of a card but get squashed flat and don’t automatically lift again.

Preparation: you might like to cut and fold a set of cards for Form A - depends upon your group.

Half open or flat: Forms A and B open to right angles, Form C opens flat.

Jargon: the right angle fold in a card or attached strip of card is a gutter. You always build pop-up movements around a gutter. Step: the bit that moves.

Feature: the piece attached to the step. Face: the side of the step you’re going to attach the feature to! Movement: the combination of step and feature.