Experimental Cities: Sculpting Paper Cities

Sculpting with paper to form exciting shapes from 2D to 3D is an imaginative way to explore and experiment with structures, form and designs in our cities and spaces. In this activity, we share the top tips and techniques on how to build and design with paper, so you can build your own unique space.

YOU WILL NEED:
- Card
- Paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Glue
- Stapler
- Pencil

Top Tips

1. You can experiment with the size of the paper or card. Tall, short, thin, there is no right way.

2. When gluing, ensure you hold down for at least 10 seconds on the joints.

Shapes

3. To make shapes, cut out a strip of paper. It is about the number of folds in the paper that you make your shape. You will need 3 folds for triangle, 4 for square and so on. Ensure that you leave a tab at the end of your shape to glue.
Feet

4. Most of the objects that you create need feet! This ensures your city can transform from 2D to 3D. You can make slits along the bottom and glue them down.

Fringe

5. The Fringe technique gives texture to your structures. Take a strip of paper, making lots of small cuts 2/3 way down the paper and then flex them slight back of forth. You can also curl your fringe with a pencil to make grass or maybe a curly bridge using a pencil to roll it.

Pleats

6. Playing with pleats, folding back and forth several times creates bridges, stairs, abstract buildings or flowers.
Curls

7. Curls make your city dynamic! Simply get your strip of paper and tightly curl it around the pencil, then release it and fold the end to glue it down. You can curl at an angle or simply try large scraps of paper to experiment and create buildings.

Spirals

8. Cut out a square, triangle, circle or any shape you decide and cut a spiral. You can pull it out and stick each end down to bring height and dimension to the city.

Quilling

9. Playing with pleats, folding back and forth several times creates bridges, stairs, abstract buildings or flowers.
Techniques

- Plicts
- Curls
- Spirals
- Shapes
- Feet
- Quilling
- Fringe