

RAFT IDEAS

Topics: Communication,
Holidays, Design,
Recycling

Materials List

- ✓ Scrap envelope (larger size)
- ✓ Materials to decorate bag (markers, stamps, stencils, stickers)
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Ribbon

This activity can be used to support the teaching of:

- Measure length in centimeters (CA Math Standards: Grade 2, Measurement & Geometry, 1.3)
- Resources (CA Science Standards: Grade 6, 6.0)
- Creative Expression strand (CA Visual Arts Standards)

Envelope Gift Bag

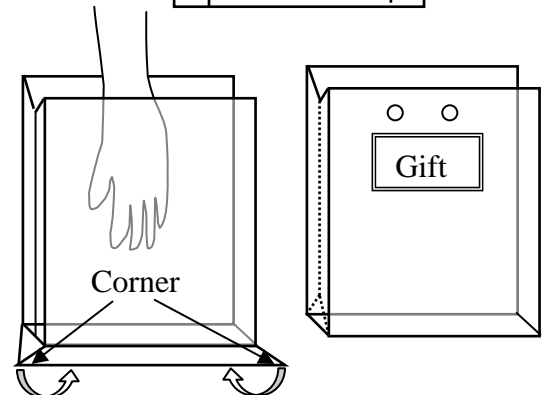
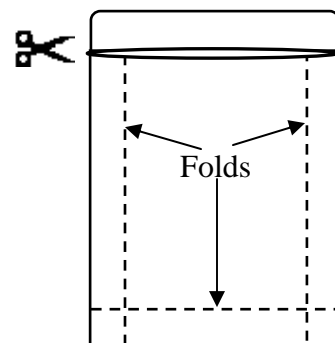
Create a Gift Bag from a Plain Envelope



Students will have a great time decorating scrap envelopes to create these wonderful gift bags. Use them for Valentine's Day, birthdays, or any other holidays you choose.

To Do and Notice

1. Cut off the flap.
2. Decorate the outside using stickers, stamps, stencils, and/or markers to create designs.
3. Measure and fold the envelope in 4 cm on all 3 sides. Press the folds to bend both ways. Wiggle them back and forth.
4. Put your hand inside the envelope. Open it up and fold the corners in. Make the gift bag like a box at the bottom and tape the corners down.
5. Make 2 holes at the top. Put a ribbon in the holes to tie it shut.
6. Optional: add a gift tag to the front.



The Content Behind the Activity

Even the most common items have a history. The flat-bottomed, paper bag did not exist until 1870, until Margaret Knight, an industrious female inventor, patented the first machine to produce the bags.

Taking it Further

Consider using this activity in a unit on waste, recycling, and materials reuse. For more recycling activities, see the RAFT Idea Sheets *Paper Recycling*, *Thinking Like a Real Survivor*, and *Journaling Your Trash*.

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/more for how-to videos and more ideas!)

For more information on the inventor of the flat-bottom bag, Margaret Knight, visit:

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret_E._Knight