

Craft Bears with Moving Parts

Making paper figures with moving parts is a very old craft. There are a variety of ways to create a leg or an arm that articulates, including the simple paper fasteners used in this project. Just bring your imagination, a few supplies, and some colourful paper.



Why Bears?

World Wildlife Day is bear-y important to the causes of animals around the globe, and of the eight species of bears on this planet, six are threatened or endangered. They could use our help.

We will never tire of cuddly teddy bears, but we can stroll through decades of paper doll history and give bears a retro-makeover that is fun, artistic, and imaginative. Dress them up. Give them mascots. Make them simple, or practice abstract collages. There are no limits!

Materials List

1. Colourful paper scraps (from old handwritten notes to magazines and gift wrap, different textures, or any add-ons available)
2. Paper-cutting scissors
3. Paper glue (a glue stick works well) and/or double-sided tape
4. Small hole punch
5. Mini or Small paper brads / paper fasteners: ensure that the head of the fastener is larger than the hole punched

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Optional:

6. Thin cardboard for backing to glue collaged papers or also to punch holes and layer moving parts with brads, if desired
7. Any other embellishments you wish!

Instructions

1. Choose a template, and at least two or three different papers (more, if you are going to collage the entire bear)
2. Cut out at least one each of the template shapes—they don't need to be traced or carefully shaped, and they can be torn rather than cut—torn edges resemble fur
3. When you have the basic shapes, decide which parts you would like to move: legs? Arms? Head?
4. Use glue or double-sided tape to attach the pieces which will not move
5. Hold the moveable piece (e.g., leg) against the body where you would like them attached and punch one hole through both layers
6. Put a brad through the hole and press the brad open flat on the back of the figure
7. Add any sparkle and flash that you want, and enjoy your new wildlife!



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