



How To Make A PAPER ANT CHAIN

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Illustrated by Martha S. Young

BioEdSM

Teacher Resources from the
Center for Educational Outreach at
Baylor College of Medicine

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The activities described in this book are intended for school-age children under direct supervision of adults. The authors and Baylor College of Medicine cannot be responsible for any accidents or injuries that may result from conduct of the activities, from not specifically following directions, or from ignoring cautions contained in the text.

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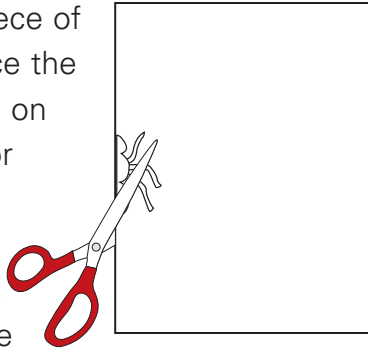


How to Make a Paper Ant Chain

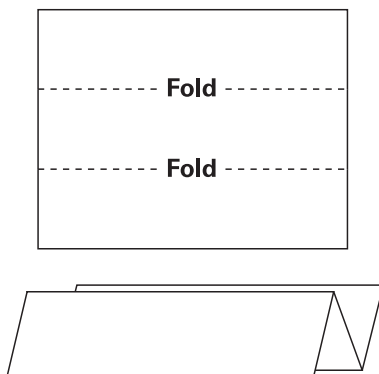
Materials: Two 8½-in. x 11-in. pieces of paper (notebook or copy paper is easier to work with than heavy construction paper); ruler; scissors; pencil or pen and clear tape.

Procedure

1. On one piece of paper, trace the ant shown on page 37, or draw one of the same size. Cut out the ant shape. This is your template. Use tape to repair cuts.



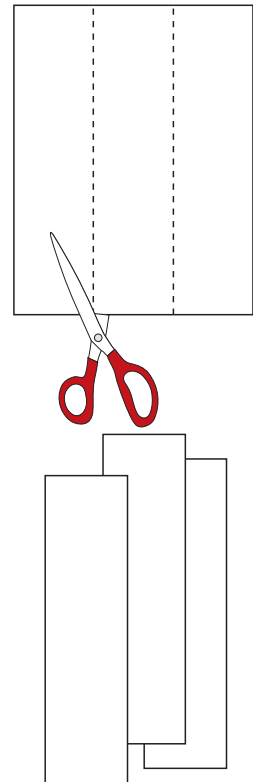
2. Lay the other sheet of paper horizontally in front of you.
3. Starting at the bottom, fold and crease the paper twice, so that three equal segments form on the page.



4. Using a ruler, measure the height of each segment to be sure that each is a little less than 3 inches tall.

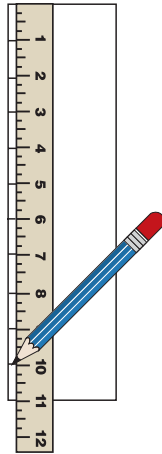


5. Use your scissors to cut carefully along the creases. You should now have three strips of paper that are about the same size.



6. Lay the paper strips vertically in front of you.

7. Beginning at the top of one strip, use a ruler and make a mark for every inch until you reach the bottom of the paper.

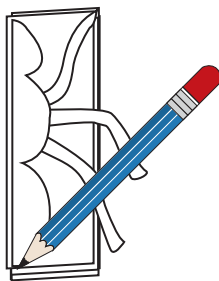


8. At each 1-inch mark, fold the paper, making a firm crease. Alternate the direction of your folds (one toward the top of the paper, one toward the bottom).

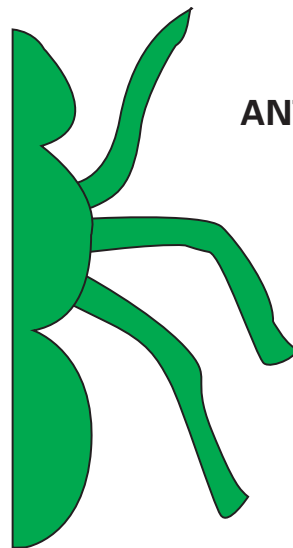


You will end up with a “paper accordion.” Press your accordion closed firmly so that it is flat.

9. Hold the ant template on one closed end of your paper accordion, with the ant’s “body” positioned so that the very tips of the ant “legs” hang a little bit over the edge.



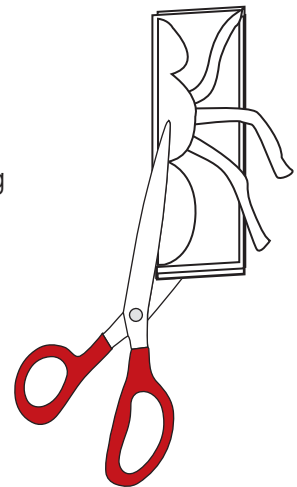
10. Use your pencil to draw an outline of



ANT TEMPLATE

the template. You will not be able to outline the very ends of the ant’s legs.

11. With your paper accordion still closed, cut along the outline you just drew.



Unfold the paper accordion to reveal your ant chain!

You may wish to color your ant chain, or even give your ants names. Repeat steps 7 through 12 to create two more ant chains.