How To Make A PAPER ANT CHAIN

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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.

Development of the Food unit was supported by grant numbers R25 ES06932 and R25ES010698 from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), National Institutes of Health (NIH). The opinions, findings and conclusions expressed in this publication are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official views of Baylor College of Medicine, NIEHS or NIH.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
The Science of Food educational materials, first developed as part of the My Health My World® project at Baylor College of Medicine, have benefited from the vision and expertise of scientists and educators representing a wide range of specialties. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to Michael Lieberman, M.D., Ph.D., William A. Thomson, Ph.D., and Carlos Vallbona, M.D., who have lent their support and expertise to the project.

Special acknowledgment is due to our partners in this project, the American Physiological Society and the Texas Medical Association. We especially thank Marsha Lakes Matyas, Ph.D., American Physiological Society, and Allison Schmidt, M.P.H. and Kristine Niemeyer, Texas Medical Association, for their active support and direction of field test activities. We thank the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Institutes of Health, Allen Darry, Ph.D., Frederick Tyson, Ph.D., and Liam O’Fallon for their support. We also are grateful to the National Center for Research Resources and Sidney McNairy, Ph.D. We thank the Agricultural Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Children’s Nutrition Research Center at Baylor College of Medicine, which assisted in the development of this unit.

Many dedicated professionals helped to assure the educational and scientific integrity of this publication. In particular, we are grateful to the following individuals, who provided guidance: Joan Carter, R.D.; Kimberly Chang, Ph.D.; Marta Fiorotto, Ph.D.; Katie Frampton; Michael Grusack, Ph.D.; Kyle Roberts, Ph.D.; Saundra Saunders, M.A.; and Faye Sinnott.

We also wish to express our gratitude for the invaluable feedback provided by the many teachers and students in and around Houston, Texas, and Washington, D.C., who participated in field trials of this unit.
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 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.