

Immerse yourself in the literacy legacy of the Green Tiger Press as we embark on a creative journey, making our own books. This hands-on activity promises a delightful blend of history and imagination, perfect for families to share in the joy of storytelling and hands-on bookmaking.

Materials

- paper
 - 5-10 sheets
- string or yarn
- scissors
- hole punch
- crayons
- markers
- colored pencils
- tape (optional)

Bookmaking Backstory

The earliest books took the form of scrolls, where papyrus and parchment were transformed into paper-like writing sheet. India is traditionally considered the birthplace of bookbinding, where Hindu scribes handcrafted books by binding palm leaves together with twine placed between 2 boards. Buddhist monks quickly realized the value of the process and over the centuries it has been developed into the processes we recognize today.

In this Family Day project, kids will learn a simple book-binding technique. This project is great for all ages and can easily be adjusted depending on the skill level. Create a story, document your life or transform your journal into a sketchbook – the world is your blank page!

Process

1. **Set up a book-making station.** Gather up your book-making materials. Now it is time to get started!
2. **Prepare your pages.** Begin by folding your paper in half. Measure and mark the placement for your holes along the folded edge of your paper. Be sure to have at least 2 and as many as your page allows. Be sure to leave space between each hole punched.
3. **Time to bind.** Grab your string or yarn and cut a arm's length amount using your scissors. Using your string you will weave (in & out) through your premeasured holes. Get creative! There are no wrong ways to weave your bookbinding. Be sure to tie off ends of string to secure your pages in place. **Optional:** use tape on frayed ends of yarn to create an easier method for weaving your book.
4. **Unleash your creativity!** Once you've assembled your book, it is now time to decorate. Using your markers, crayons and colored pencils, be sure to give your book a cover. Fill in the pages! Write a story or save as a daily journal – the choice is yours!

