

Otter bookmark craft



Name: _____



First, a little background on otters. Otters are really important parts of their ecosystems and are a great indicator species for any problems that might be happening in their habitat, like pollution. Otters have a lot of interesting adaptations that help them live in their watery habitat, like webbed feet and a tail that helps them swim.

Otters are also generally brown in color with a lighter belly to help them camouflage with their surroundings, in and out of the water.



Now that we know a little more about otters, we can make our own otters!

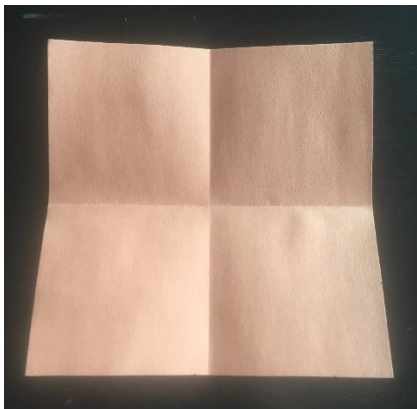


Materials:

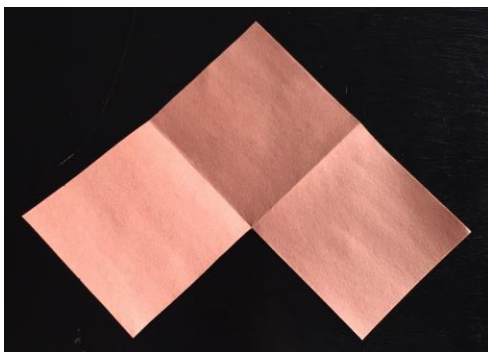
- 1-2 colors of construction paper (or white paper to color)
- Scissors
- Tape or glue
- Crayons, colored pencils, or markers

Our otter starts with the body. Find a piece of paper that is the color you want and cut a square about 6 inches by 6 inches. If you don't have colored paper, use white paper and color it in. If you want to model your otter after a North American river otter like we have at the Zoo, you should use brown for your body.

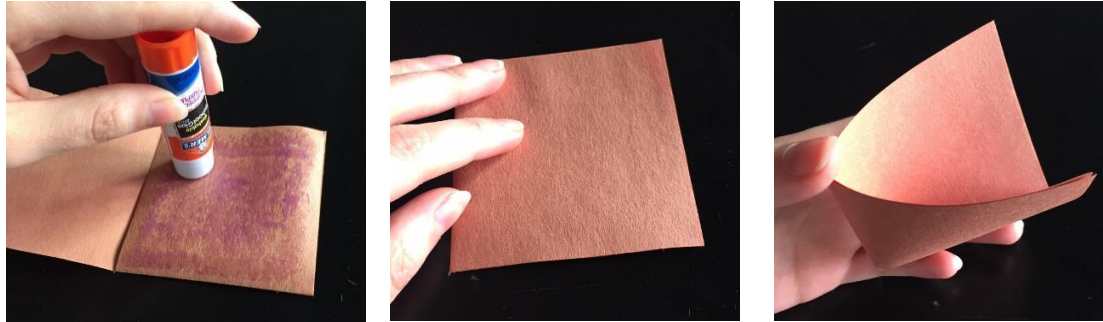
Fold the paper in half both ways, so it looks like your big square is now a smaller square of about 3 inches by 3 inches. Unfold it so it looks like your big square is made up of four smaller squares.



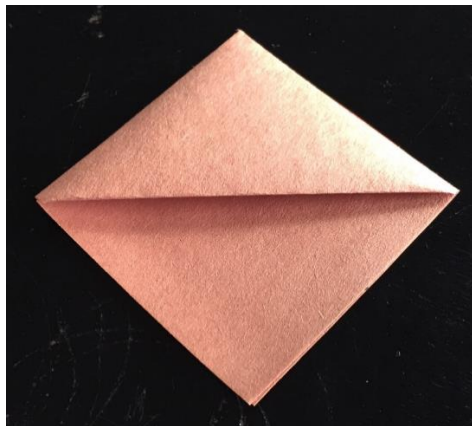
Now, cut out one of the four squares.



Next, we will fold the side squares back toward the middle square to reform the smaller square. Glue the two side squares together so they stay in place. Do NOT glue them to the center square. You should end up with a small pocket.

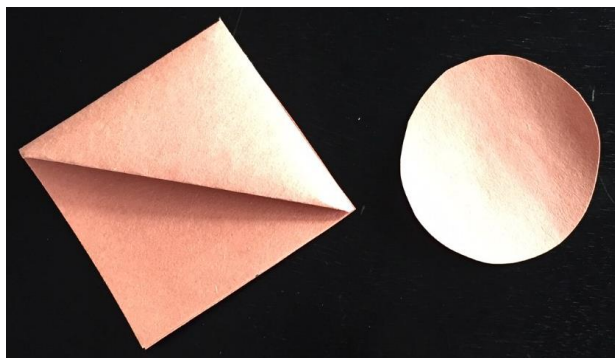


Now, take the side of the pocket with only one piece of paper (this used to be the center square) and fold the paper into the pocket, as shown below.

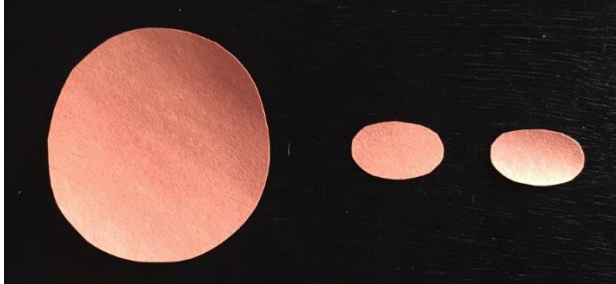


This will be the front of your otter's body and the part that makes it a bookmark.

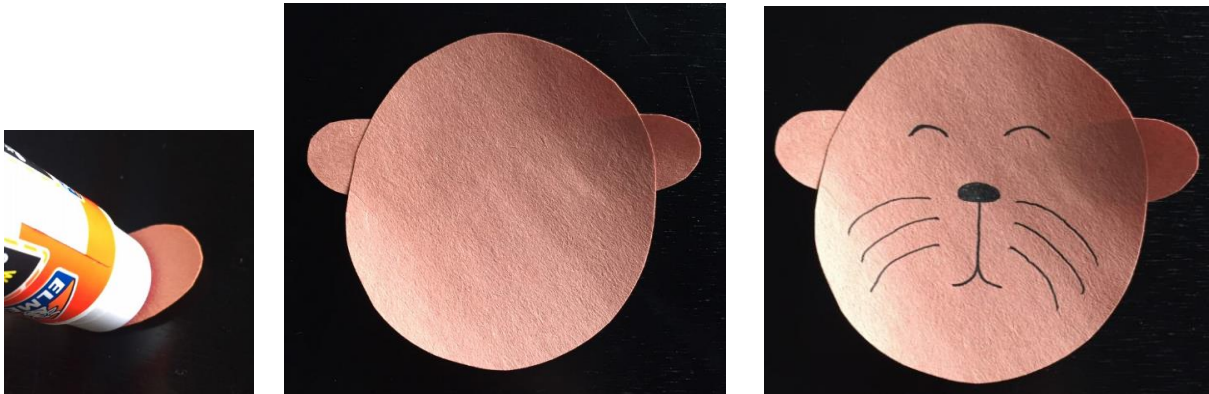
Next, we need to cut out a head for our otter. Choose a color paper or use white paper and color it whatever color you want your otter's head to be. If you are modeling your otter after the otters at the Zoo, you should use brown paper for your otter's head. Cut out a circle, a little smaller than your otter's body for the head.



Now, we need to give our otter some ears. Choose a color of paper for your otter's ears, you will probably want this to match your otter's head. Cut out two small ovals for the ears.



Glue or tape your ears on the back of your otter's head so they poke out the sides of the head. Make sure to draw your otter a face as well.



Now, glue or tape your otter's head onto its body.

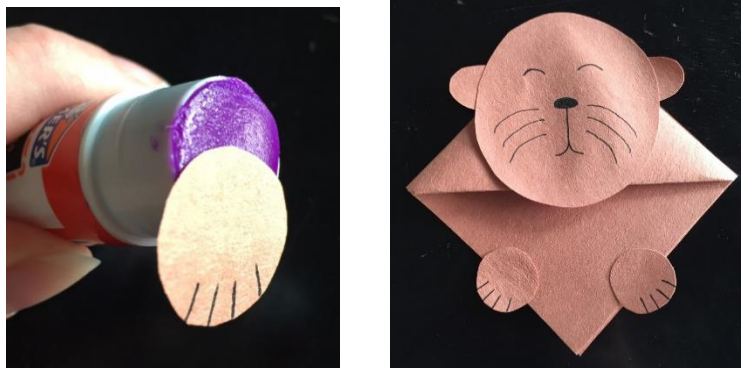


We're almost done!

Last, we need to give our otter some feet. If you are making a river otter you should use brown paper for your feet. Cut four circles for the feet. Be sure to draw on some toes. Remember, otters have webbed feet, so you shouldn't be able to see between the toes.



Glue or tape the top part of two of your otter's feet onto the bottom of its body so that the bottom part with the toes on each foot are still sticking out.



Glue the other two feet on either side of the otter's head. This will make it look like your otter bookmark is holding onto the page.





You did it! Congrats on finishing your very own otter bookmark! Now you can have it act like an otter if you want. You could try running or swimming with your otter around your house, or simply have it hang on to a book page for you!

Don't forget to check back all week for more otter-related fun, including an otter story tomorrow at senecaparkzoo.org/zooprojects