How to make your own pop-up book

Pop-up books are an eternal favourite with young children. And creating one is not as tricky as you might think.

This crafty project will delight small and big kids alike. Whether it's with scary monsters, beautiful flowers or an intrepid astronaut, let your children's imagination run free with their very own DIY pop-up book.

TOP TIP:
Keep things simple. The fewer cuts you need to make and the less glue that needs to dry, the stronger your book will be.

What you will need:

- Scissors
- Heavy paper
- Cardboard for the cover
- Glue

- Pen
- Crayons/pencils
- Decorating supplies (stickers/googly eyes)
- Your imagination!

Step 1

Choose your topic

Sit down with your kids and discuss the subject of their pop-up book. Is it a story about them and what they've done? Or purely fictional? Or perhaps you can retell a classic fairy tale? If you do decide on non-fiction, choose a topic your kids will love and that will keep them interested – animals and space are always good options.

Step 2

Plan your story

Write down your story on notebook paper, separating it into different paragraphs or lines, and roughly plan what pop-up will go where.

Step 3

Fold a sturdy piece of paper in half

Construction paper works well, as does cardstock, thin poster paper or scrapbooking paper.
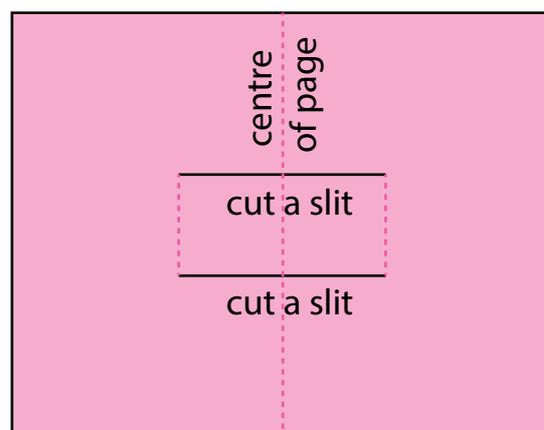
The more tabs you use, the more your book will pop.

Step 4

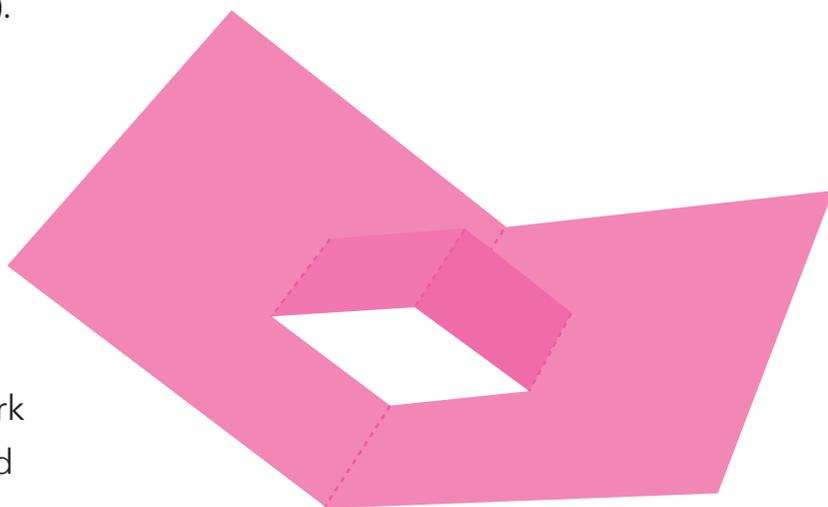**Cut two parallel, horizontal slits across the centre of the folded edge (see diagram, right)**

The slits should be about 5cm long and spaced about 2.5cm apart. These slits will create a tab: use your fingers to carefully push the tab forward so that it sticks out at a right angle (below right). Repeat on all the pages.

Step 5

Make your illustrations

Draw and colour the illustrations on separate sheets of construction paper or cardstock – animals and flowers work well. Then cut out your illustrations and stick them to the tab of the book.

centre of page

cut a slit

cut a slit

Draw or colour in the background to complement your theme. For example, if you've stuck a flower on the tab, draw a vase around it so the flower looks like it's popping out of the vase. If you've chosen an animal, draw a tree or some grass as the background.

Step 6

Create as many pages as necessary to tell your story

Add occasional extra tabs and cut-out figures to make the pages really pop.

Step 7

Design the cover and decorate your book

Fold the sheet of cardboard in half for the cover. Using pencils, crayons, glitter and stickers, decorate it, and carefully stick it to the first and last pages of the book.

Then finish illustrating each page of your story, leaving enough room to add the words. You could even glue the words on using additional paper folded over for an extra surprise element (either hand-write them or print them out).

Hey presto, your very own DIY pop-up book!