



## Meander Book

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*There are many kinds of single sheet books, but the Meander Book is one that offers the maker many pages for content. The Meander Book can easily be adapted for any content. Its linear form is specifically well suited for timelines, stories, and science logs.*

**Grades/Age Group:** K-12

**Approximate Time Required:**

Prep: 10 minutes

Teaching: 10-15 minutes

**Teaching Overview:**

Materials needed:

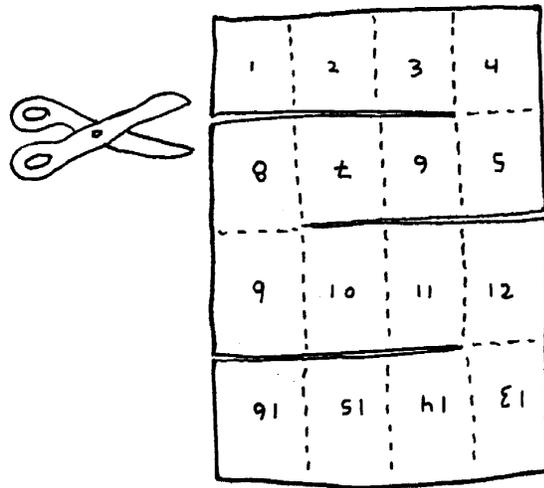
1. Text paper
2. Scissors
3. Drawing/image-making tools
4. Cover paper (optional)

**Procedure:**

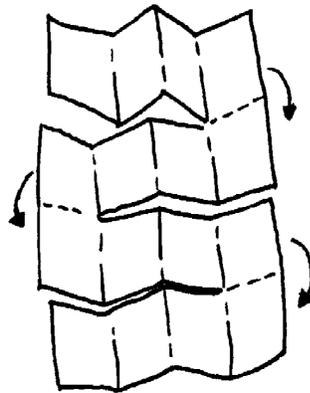
1. Fold paper in half the hotdog way, or lengthwise. (if you have imagery, make sure that your imagery is on the outside when you fold, rather than folded inside).
2. While still folded in half, curl the top flap over to meet the folded edge. Crease down to fold. Keep everything folded up and flip it over. Repeat on this side by picking up the flap of paper and bringing over to sit on top of the other folds. You know you have done it correctly if your paper looks like a W or an M.
3. Open it up and lay flat again. (if you have an image, be sure to fold the image inside the fold, so your paper is blank on the outside when folded).
4. Now fold the paper in half the hamburger way, or widthwise, and fold in half. (If you have an image, fold so that the image is inside.) Now fold the same way you did in step 2. While still folded, bring the top flap back to the middle fold. Crease to fold. Keep everything folded up and flip over. Repeat fold on this side. You know you have done it correctly if your paper looks like a W or an M. You will end up with 16 panels when you open up your paper completely.



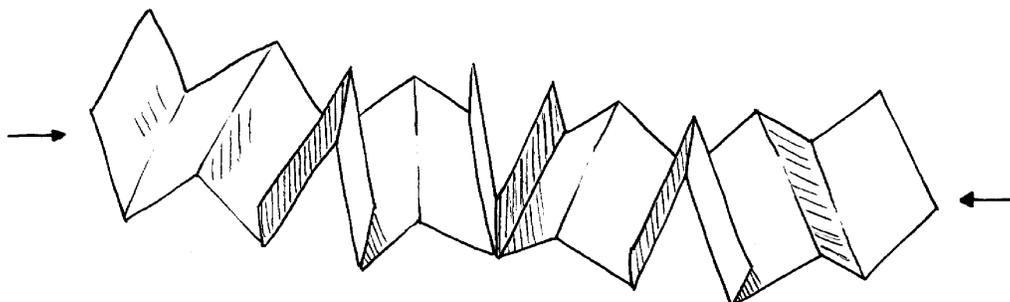
5. Open up all the way and cut according to the diagram below. (Note: If you are making the “Leaders in Black History” mini-zine, be sure to follow cutting guides included on the zine for a *landscape orientation* book vs. *portrait*, as is diagramed here.)



6. Fold up the entire book (you may have to reverse some of the folds). You will flip the sections that are connected down so that you can continue folding.

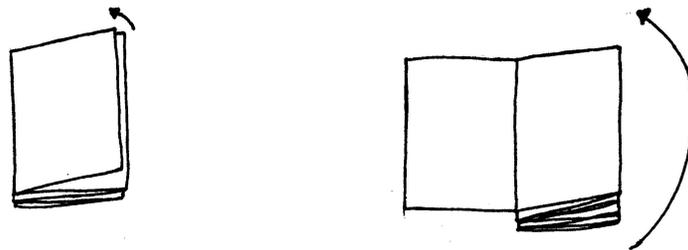


7. Press the book closed and crease. (Use bone folder or plastic knife/popsicle stick if available.)

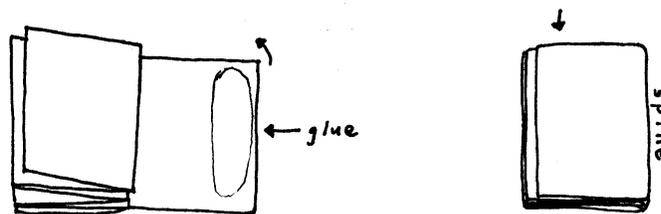




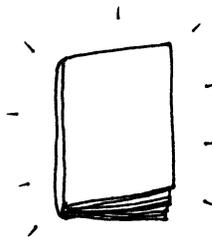
8. Close your book so that the front cover is on top. To create a spine for the book, open the first page. Leave open and flip the whole book over.



9. You should now have most of your book stacked on one side, with a single page poking out from the bottom of the stack. Place a stripe of glue on this single page as shown. Lift up the page and bring it over on top of your book, and press down to glue. This creates a spine and your back cover.



10. Turn to the front and enjoy your book!





## Meander Book – Lesson Overview:

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### Key Points:

1. This is a good example of a simple book form often utilized by book artists and in self-publishing.
2. Each book is made from a single sheet of paper. There are many variations!

### Ideas for Innovation:

1. It can be applicable to any subject.
2. Students can fill pages of their folded books with words and pictures.
3. Can be used with predesigned pages.
4. Can be easily unfolded and photocopied to make additional copies of the book, which can be traded with other students or used for a class exchange.

### Learning Objectives:

1. Students will increase their dexterity skills by folding cutting and gluing accurately.
2. Students will explore new ways to interact with what they're learning.
3. Students will have foundational skills for making simple books on their own.
4. Should they write their own story, they will enhance writing skills.

### Core Standard Applications:

#### Math:

*1<sup>st</sup> grade math.* Standard: Work with addition and subtraction equations. Application: Have students make up a story about adding and subtracting (such as a dog that gets treats and eats them). In their book they can draw pictures and write their stories and the equations that go along with the story.

*3<sup>rd</sup> grade math.* Standard: Develop understanding of fractions as numbers. Application: Have students write and draw pictures of fractions to help them visualize fractions.

#### Science:

*4<sup>th</sup> grade science.* Standard: Identify basic properties of minerals and rocks. Application: Have students make a book where they draw different rocks and minerals from observation and write information about their properties.

*6<sup>th</sup> grade science.* Standard: Students will understand that the appearance of the moon changes in a predictable cycle as it orbits Earth and as Earth rotates on its axis. Application: Have students make a moon observation by drawing and writing in a book over a month recording every few nights.

#### Language Arts:

*2<sup>nd</sup> grade langue arts.* Standard: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details and well-structured event sequences. Application: Have students practice writing stories that



have a sequence of events. They can write stories from their lives or one that they make up.

*5<sup>th</sup> grade language arts.* Standard: Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others. Application: Have students write short poems and publish them on a class blog. Then combine them into a book for everyone (you might have to make a few books so they will have a little book set of poems). Discuss the pros and cons of publishing online vs. in real life. What is good and bad about both kinds of publishing?

#### Social Studies:

*Kindergarten social studies.* Standard: Students will recognize and describe how individuals and families are both similar and different. Application: Students will make a book about the members of their families. Students can look at each other's books and talk about how families are similar and different.

*9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade social studies.* Standard: The students will understand the emergence and development of the human rights and culture in the modern era. Applications: Have students study how different groups have struggled for human and civil rights throughout American history. Make a book that outlines a timeline of important events pertaining to a movement.