

# MoNA

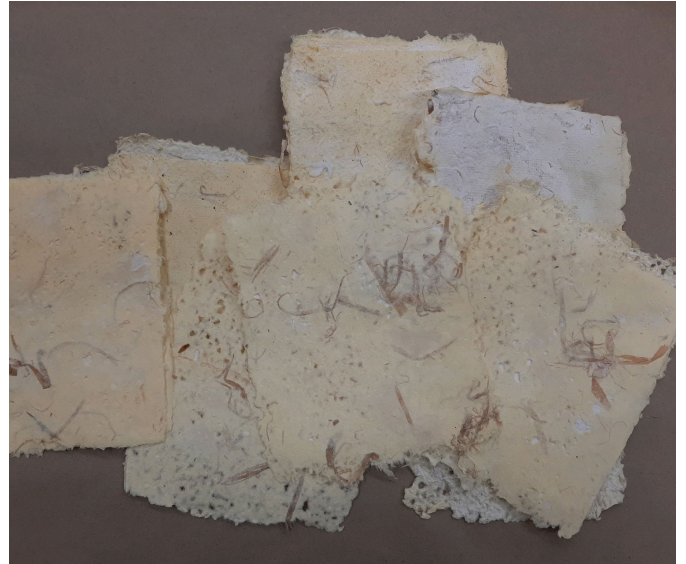
Museum of Northwest Art

**Age:** Kindergarden-6th Grade

**Lesson Duration:** 1.5 hours

**Subject:** Papermaking, Bookmaking

## Papermaking Inspired by Joseph Ramsey



*Image Credit: MoNA Education*

A HANDS-ON ART ACTIVITY  
DESIGNED BY MONA  
EDUCATORS

### Description

This activity will teach students how to recycle materials to create their own sustainable, handmade paper. Looking at the career of Joseph Ramsey, students will learn about the history of bookmaking as well. Students will also gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for the work that goes into making the books we read everyday.

### Materials

- Wooden deckle frames
- Plastic screens
- Cotton linters
- Sponges
- Blender
- Paper scraps
- Water pans
- Paper towels
- Bath towels
- Samples of handmade paper
- [Video on papermaking](#)
- [Video on the history of bookmaking](#)
- Dry scrap paper, drawing paper for a poster
- Optional: [MoNA lesson on printmaking "For the Masses: Stamping as Mass Media"](#)

## Instructions

- 1) Introduce the lesson to the students by showing them the attached videos on papermaking and the history of books.
  - Introduce the students to Joseph Ramsey and discuss how a book comes to be. Do any of the students have special books in their families? Do they own any hand-bound books? What is the oldest book they've ever seen?
- 2) Prepare the workspace by laying out newspaper, paper towels, and bath towels to soak up any spillage and lay out the wooden frames and plastic screens.
- 3) Begin to make the homemade paper by adding 1 cup of pieces of scrap paper and cotton linter and putting them into the blender filled with water. Then blend for about 60 seconds until a gritty mixture is made. This is called a slurry.
  - **DO NOT POUR SLURRY DOWN SINK DRAINS.**
- 4) Take your wooden deckle frame, place it into the water pan, and pour the paper slurry right on top of it onto the screen.
  - Remove the wooden deckle frame from the water pan and lay it on the table.
- 5) Remove the top wooden deckle screen and place the plastic screen on top.
  - Then take the dry sponge and use it to soak up as much water as you can in the slurry mixture by patting it on top of the screen. Wring it out into the water pan as often as you need.
- 6) Flip the screen and deckle over, and remove the bottom wooden deckle frame.
  - Flip the paper off of the plastic screen and onto the laid-down paper towel, then sandwich the paper in between paper towels and bath towels to continue to soak up extra water.
  - Repeat steps 3-6 as needed until each student has 2-3 sheets of homemade paper to use.
- 7) Allow the paper to sit and dry for 24 hours, and then it is ready to be used!
  - While their paper is drying, have students make a poster detailing how to recycle paper and why it is important for our planet.
- 8) **OPTIONAL STEP:** If you've decided to combine this lesson with our printmaking lesson, "For the Masses: Stamping as Mass Media", begin that lesson after the paper has dried. To link the lessons together, tell students that they will be exploring how to make a book, from creating the paper, printing the pages, to seeing how they are bound.

## Relevant Vocabulary

- ✓ Slurry
- ✓ Book Binding
- ✓ Papyrus
- ✓ Parchment
- ✓ Codex



*Image Credit: MoNA Education*

## Learning and State Standards

### **Fulfills Washington State Arts Learning Standards:**

**Kindergarten: VA:Cr2.2.K** Identify safe and non-toxic art materials, tools, and equipment.

**First Grade: VA:Cr2.1.1** Explore uses of materials and tools to create works of art or design.

**Second Grade: VA:Cr2.3.2** Repurpose objects to make something new.

**Third Grade: VA:Cr2.2.3** Demonstrate an understanding of the safe and proficient use of materials, tools, and equipment for a variety of artistic processes.

**Fourth Grade: VA:Pr4.1.4** Analyze how past, present, and emerging technologies have impacted the preservation and presentation of artwork.

**Fifth Grade: VA:Cr2.2.5** Demonstrate quality craftsmanship through care for and use of materials, tools, and equipment.

**Sixth Grade: VA:Cr2.1.6** Demonstrate openness in trying new ideas, materials, methods, and approaches in making works of art and design.

# About the Artist: Joseph Ramsey



*Joseph Ramsey*

*Image Source: Yakima Herald*

Joseph Ramsey is a bookbinder and owner of Monk's Bookbinding in Yakima, Washington. A former Benedictine monk, Ramsey joined his monastery at the age of 17. During his years there, he was trained in binding the many books held in the abbey as a form of penance. After leaving his monastery in 2010, Ramsey moved around the United States with his family before settling down in Yakima and opening his shop. Ramsey binds books in the traditional way, using leather covers, hand-sewn linen cords, brass letter stamps, and gold leaf to accent the cover pages.

