

Exploring Paper

Nancy Gruskin

List of Supplies

NOTE: I've provided links to give you examples of the materials. You don't have to buy these exact products or use these suppliers. Feel free to email me if you have any questions about substitutions.

Paper:

1. One ream of 67 lb. white cardstock, such as this [8.5" x 11" paper](#). It doesn't matter what brand, but do get 67 lb. paper—it's thin enough to still be foldable and easy to cut with scissors and/or an X-Acto knife, but thick enough to stand up on its own when sculpted.
2. A 19" x 24" pad of bristol board. [Canson](#) makes a student line that is good quality and relatively inexpensive. NOTE: You can easily complete all of the exercises in this class with the ream of cardstock, so the bristol board is an OPTIONAL purchase. I included it on the list because its larger size allows you to scale up sculptures and weavings. Just keep in mind that if you scale up your paper, you'll want to scale up the protective surface you use when cutting it with an X-Acto knife (you could use a big piece of heavy duty cardboard or a [large cutting mat](#)). The cutting mat is an investment, but I use mine all the time.
3. A [roll](#) or [pad](#) of tracing paper.
4. Collage papers: This can be almost anything, from hand-painted and/or printed papers (acrylic paint on copy paper makes wonderful collage paper) to purchased colored papers (e.g., scrapbook paper, origami paper, construction paper, Canson Mi-Teintes or Fabriano Tiziano colored paper). Other ideas: newspaper, magazine pages, wallpaper, your collection of paintings and drawings on paper that you don't mind cutting up, found papers like the brown kraft paper that is used as shipping material.
5. Feel free to experiment with any paper you might already have as well: e.g., vellum, Yupo, wrapping paper, tissue paper, newsprint, watercolor paper, pastel paper, etc.

Drawing & Painting tools:

1. A selection of drawing tools (e.g., pencils, charcoal/charcoal pencils, pens, markers, crayons, colored pencils)
2. A selection of paint (water-based preferable) and brushes. If you're not a painter and don't already own any paint, don't spend a lot of money! For less than \$12, you can get this starter set of [acrylics](#).

Other supplies:

1. Scissors
2. An X-Acto knife and a cutting mat (or a piece of heavy-duty cardboard) to protect your cutting surface. Have extra blades for your knife on hand. The key to your happiness with many of the paper exercises is a nice sharp blade!
3. Glue for collage (a glue stick (I like the [Uhu brand](#)), or liquid white glue, PVA adhesive, Yes! Paste, or an acrylic medium)
4. Masking tape
5. A **metal** ruler (at least 12" long; metal preferred, so that you can use it as a straight edge with your X-Acto knife).
6. Optional, but helpful: A drafting triangle like [this one](#). Allows you to draw parallel lines quickly and easily.