

Mercury Spacecraft

Did you know?

- Alan Shepard became the first American in space when he successfully completed a 15-minute suborbital flight on May 5, 1961, flying at an altitude of 116 miles at 5,036 miles per hour. At 5 feet 11 inches tall, Shepard was almost too tall to be an astronaut.
- Alan Shepard named his own space capsule *Freedom 7*, the number signifying the team of astronauts—the first astronauts were called the “Mercury 7.”
- On the day of his flight, Shepard sat in the space capsule for four hours while weather and mechanical problems delayed the launch.
- Shepard was busy during his flight. He reported instrument readings and other activities 78 times.
- Shepard sweat so much during the flight that he lost three pounds!
- He received the Distinguished Service Medal from President John F. Kennedy three days after his flight.
- Unlike the first Soviet flight a few weeks earlier, Shepard’s flight was broadcast live on television. For most schoolchildren at the time, this was one of the few times their teachers let them watch television in class!



Make your own spacecraft!

Supplies

- Paper cup
- Aluminum foil
- Tissue or plastic bag cut into a square
- Yarn, string, or dental floss
- Tape
- Pencil



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Mercury Spacecraft

Steps 1

- Poke a hole in the bottom of the cut using a **pencil**. Ask an adult for help.
- Wrap the **cup** in **aluminum foil**. Leave the hole in the bottom showing.



Step 2

Take a **tissue or plastic bag cut into a square** and **tape** the ends of the four pieces of yarn, string or dental floss to the corners of the tissue.



Step 3

Push the knot through the hole in the bottom of the cup. Tape the knot to the inside of the cup.



Step 4

Name your capsule. You can use one of the original names or make up your own.

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Popsicle Stick Flags

President Kennedy did not want a statue or painting of himself in the Library and Museum. The flag is the architect's way of referencing President Kennedy. It is a symbol that reminds us of him and of the office of the presidency.

The American flag flies 24 hours a day on the White House grounds.

The American flag has flown on the North Pole, on top of Mount Everest, and on the Moon, among other places.

The colors have meaning:

- Red symbolizes hardiness and valor.
- White symbolizes purity and innocence.
- Blue represents vigilance, perseverance, and justice.



Materials:

- 4 red popsicle sticks
- 3 white popsicle sticks
- 1 large popsicle stick
- Star stickers
- Blue square (2-inches X 2-inches)
- Clear tape

Directions:

1. Stack popsicle sticks next to each other, alternating the red and white (if you do not have red sticks, the plain sticks can be colored red with markers or crayons).
2. Use a piece of clear tape to keep the popsicle sticks in place and for added support. Then turn it over so the tape is on the back.
3. Glue the popsicle sticks to the top corner of the large wavy stick (make sure the clear tape is on the back).
4. Place the star stickers onto the blue square.
5. Glue the blue square with the star stickers to the top corner of the red and white sticks.

If you have a stick-on magnet, you can add it to the back of the wavy stick.

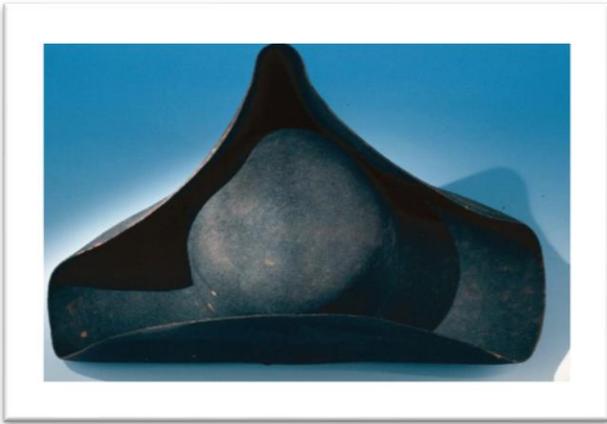
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Colonial Couture

Tricorner hats and cravats were worn by many of the early presidents of the United States including John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison.

Tricorn Hat



Wearing wigs and hats was a popular style for men in colonial America, as well as the new nation and Europe, throughout the 17th and 18th centuries. Keeping hats on over the wigs was difficult, so hats were often carried under the arm. Folded hats were much easier to carry this way.

Towards the end of the 18th century, the Tricorner hat, often referred to as the Tricorn hat, quickly became the new style.

Colonial Cravat



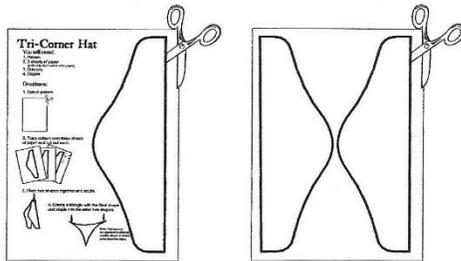
The word cravat comes from the “crabate” worn by Croatian soldiers who served in the French Army. The cravat appeared in the mid-17th century fashions for men’s formal wear. By the 18th century most men wore sort type of cloth around their necks, with the cravat as one of the popular forms of neckwear for both formal and informal clothes while they worked. The cravat was generally of white linen that was decorated at the ends with lace or fringe. A cravat is wrapped around the neck and loosely tied in the front tucked into their vests or shirts.

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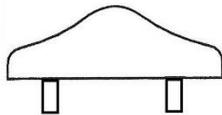
Colonial Tricorner Hat

Directions:

1. Cut out hat pattern to make 3 hat shapes.



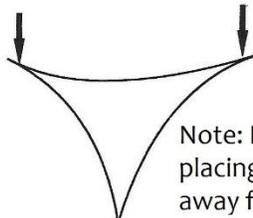
2. Make the front of your hat by attaching 1 white paper curl to each side of one hat shape.



3. Place two hat shapes together and staple.

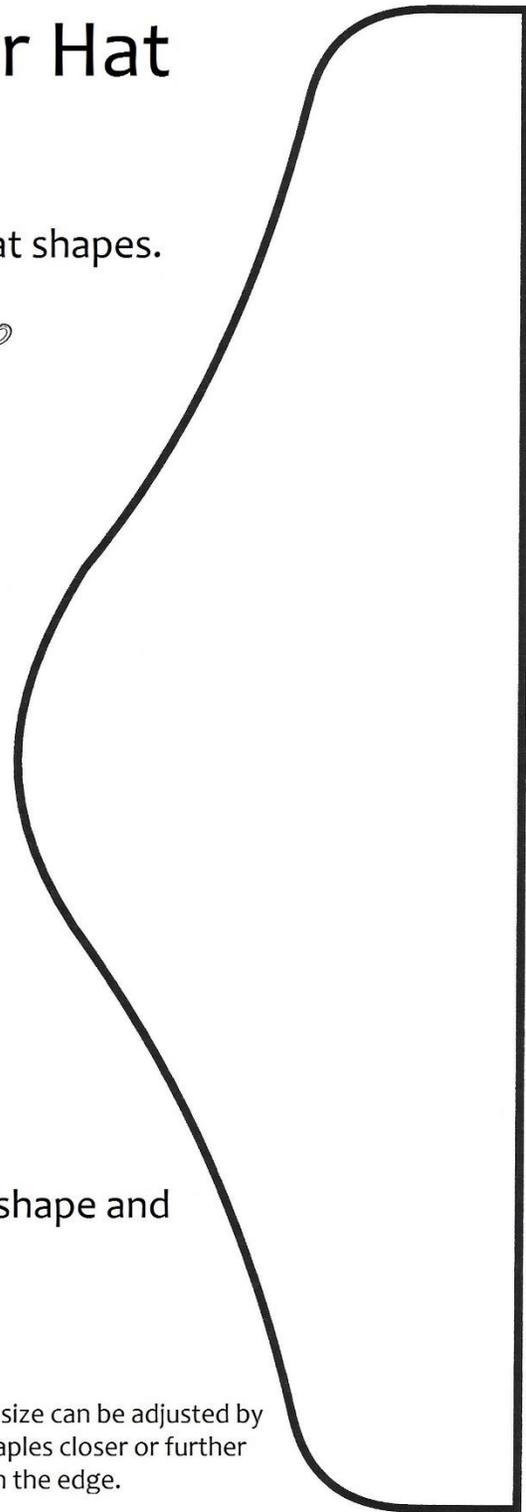


4. Create a triangle with the third shape and staple it to the other 2 shapes.



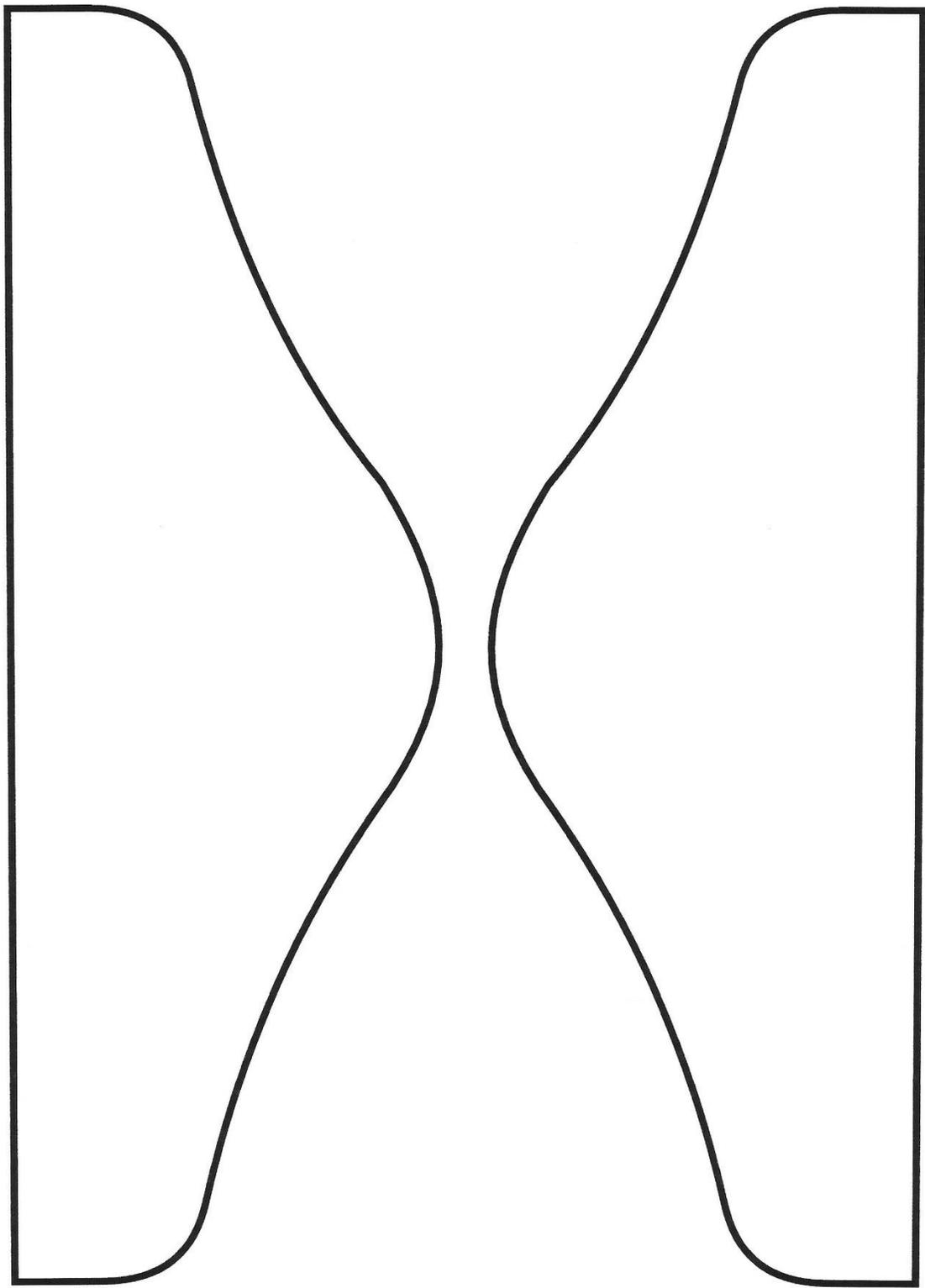
Note: Hat size can be adjusted by placing staples closer or further away from the edge.

5. Place tape over the back of each staple.



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Colonial Cravat

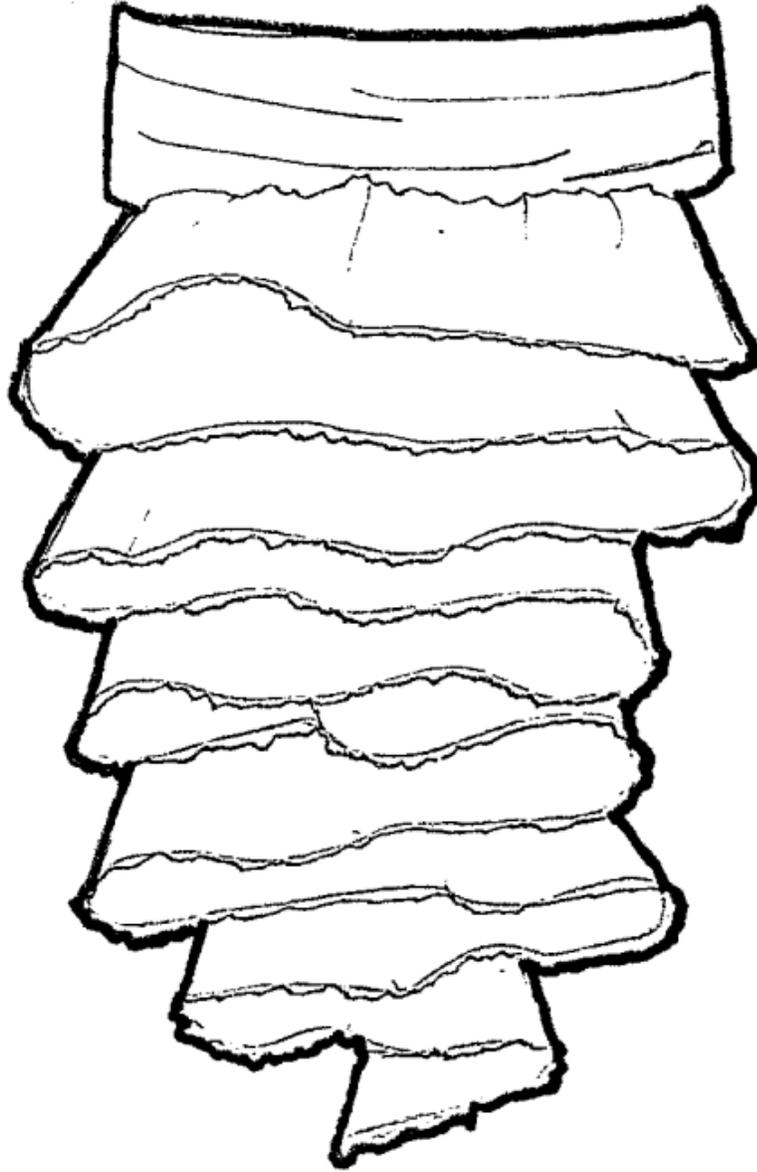


1. Cut along the outline of the cravat.
2. Color and glue on materials to your liking.
3. Paste a large stick on the back to use as your handle or hole punch each side and tie on with string to wear today!

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Colonial Cravat

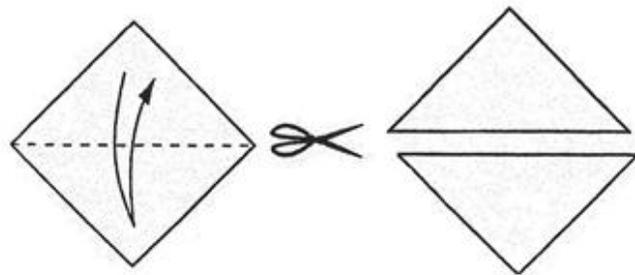


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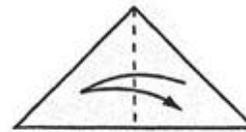
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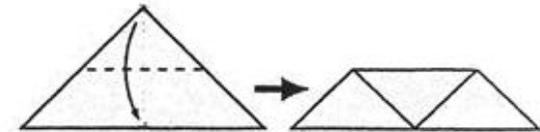
Origami Sailboat



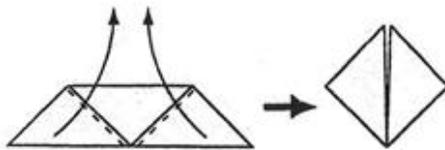
1. Start with a square piece of paper, white side up. Fold the paper in half, then open. Cut the paper in half, along the crease.



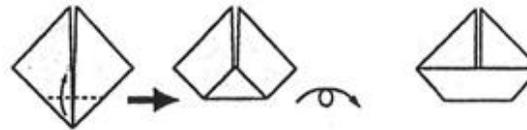
2. With one of the triangles, fold in half and open.



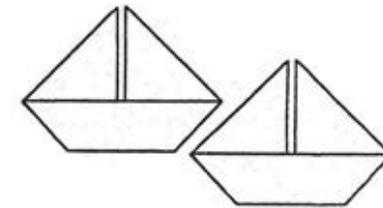
3. Fold the top corner downwards to meet the bottom edge of the triangle.



4. Fold the two bottom corners upwards to meet together in the middle.



5. Fold the bottom corner up to the center. Then turn over.



Finished sailboat.
Now you can make another one with the other triangle.

Don't forget to name your sailboat!

Scrimshaw

What is scrimshaw?

Scrimshaw—whale teeth, whale bone, and animal tusks carved with intricate designs and pictures—is a truly American art form. It likely originated among Native American cultures, and was developed and refined by sailors on whaling ships in the 18th and 19th centuries. During whaling voyages, which often took years, many whalers took up hobbies to pass the time. Making scrimshaw was practiced by whalers, as well as navy and merchant seamen while aboard their ships.



President Kennedy had a personal collection of scrimshaw. He even kept some pieces of scrimshaw on his desk in the Oval Office of the White House.

Design a Piece of Scrimshaw

Materials:

- Index card
- Bar of soap
- Carving toothpick (a replacement can be a sharp pencil)
- Q-tip
- Paper towels
- Plastic bag
- Black shoe polish (a replacement can be coffee grounds or lipstick)
- Clean wipes

Directions:

1. Make a drawing on the small notecard to practice.
2. Use your toothpick or pencil to carve your drawing onto the soap. Trace your design 2-3 times so it is well defined.
3. Ask the adult for shoe polish and use a Q-tip to rub shoe polish over the design on the soap. Make sure to get the shoe polish in the design lines. (If you do not have shoe polish, you can use coffee grounds or lipstick instead.)
4. Use clean paper towels to wipe off all the extra shoe polish.
5. Show off your “scrimshaw” in a place to proudly display your artwork.
6. Wipe your hands and your work area clean.

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