

Happy Earth Day Card

Celebrate Earth Day (April 22) or any spring occasion with this colorful card featuring a flower that blooms before your eyes! In the spirit of life and growth, attach a pretty seed packet to the card as an additional gift!

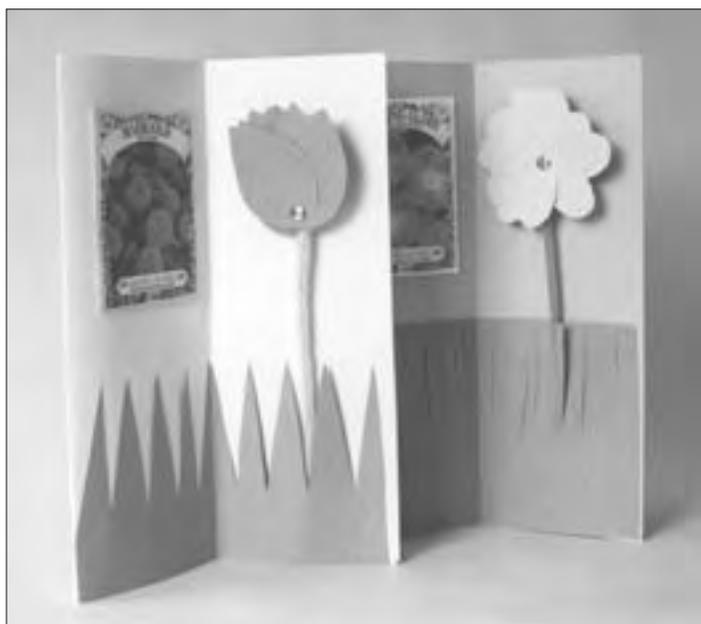
Materials

For each student:

- ⊙ 1 large piece brightly colored construction paper, about 12 by 18 inches
- ⊙ two 4-inch construction paper squares (same color or two different colors)
- ⊙ 1 large paper fastener
- ⊙ 1 green pipe cleaner
- ⊙ 1 piece green construction paper
- ⊙ seed packet (optional)

Other materials:

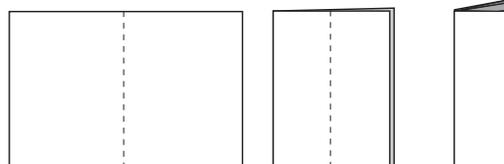
- ⊙ scissors
- ⊙ crayons or markers
- ⊙ hole punch
- ⊙ glue stick
- ⊙ stapler



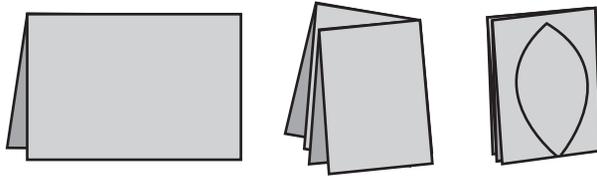
Pass out the materials. Then demonstrate for children the following steps.

1 Fold the large piece of paper in half twice as shown.

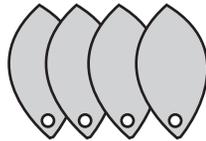
Crease the folds with a thumb or the edge of a ruler. The folded edge will be the front of the card. (The double folds makes the card stronger.)



- 2** On the front of the card, write a message or make a drawing with crayons or markers. Then set the card aside.
- 3** Next, make the flower. Fold the two 4-inch paper squares in half as shown. Cut out a petal shape from each one, cutting through all layers of paper. Each folded piece of paper will make four petals.



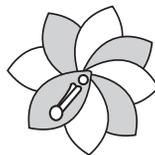
- 4** With a hole punch, make a hole in each petal near the base as shown.



- 5** Push a paper fastener through the holes in the petals. If you are using two different colors of paper, try alternating them as you thread them onto the paper fastener.

- 6** Wrap about an inch of the pipe cleaner around the prongs of the fastener (behind the petals).

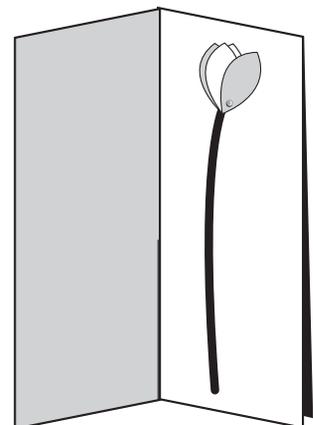
Front of flower



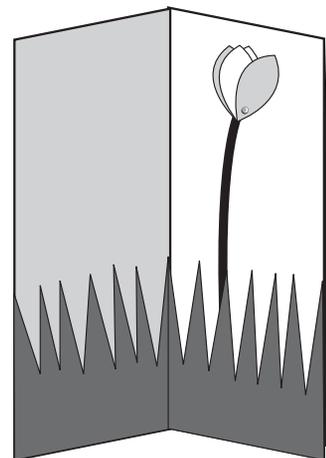
Back of flower



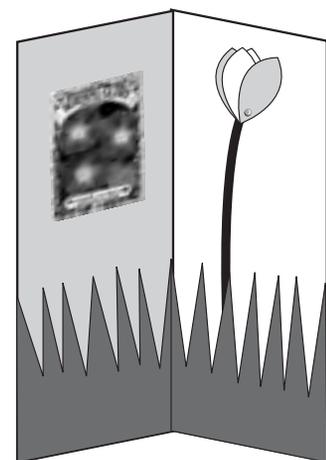
- 7** Place the flower on the right side of the open card. Push the paper fastener through the card and flatten the prongs in the back, as shown. Close up the petals so the flower looks like a bud. Staple the stem to the card near the bottom.



- 8** Cut some grass out of the green paper. Glue it to the bottom of the card so it covers the flower stem.



- 9** Optional: Glue the seed packet to the left-hand side of the open card in the open space, using spots of glue from a glue stick on the four back corners so it will be easy to detach later.



- ☉ This card will be a double surprise for a special relative or friend—the lucky recipient can spread open the petals to make the flower “bloom” and then plant the seeds in a window box or outside in a garden.

