



<https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/art-project-for-hispanic-heritage-month/>

Amate Paper Art

Amate, a special tree bark paper that we will simulate using brown paper bags.

Before you begin, you may want to Google some ideas, search: Amate paper art.

You may also draw whatever you wish without doing a search.



Steps 1 & 2 have been completed for you.

Materials:

- Brown paper bags from grocery store or butcher paper (included)
- White chalk (included)
- India ink (not included – this step has been completed for you)
- Paint brush or sponge brush (included in paint pan/you may also use your own)
- Paper towels (not included – for wiping chalk mistakes)
- Tempera paints and/or chalk pastels/paint pan (included – may require 2 coats)
- Black marker (included)

Directions:

1. **(Completed for included craft)** Cut one of the larger sides out of the paper bag for small bags, cut off bottom and pull apart at the seam. Crumple it up. A lot! Crumple and re-crumple; you want a lot of creases.
2. **(Completed for included craft)** Smooth out the bag and lay it on newspaper or a surface you don't mind getting messy. Using watered down India ink (about 3/4 water to 1/4 ink), and working in sections of the bag, brush ink on and wipe away any extra with paper towels. This should leave you with ink collected mostly in the crevices, and the paper now resembles Amate bark. Wait for it to be mostly dry.
3. Iron it on a low setting to flatten it out enough for painting. Get an adult's help if needed.
4. Draw your image with white chalk onto the paper, wiping away any mistakes.
5. Paint and/or chalk pastel over your image.
6. When the paint is dry, you can use a permanent black marker to outline your images, and add in any decorative details.

Alternative ideas for this project: use fluorescent tempera paints for a little extra punch, you can skip the crumple/ink step if you want to get right to painting, add the final details in with a white paint pen instead of a permanent marker, little kids can fill in pre-drawn (by you) shapes with paint.