

Bookmaking with Kids

Pop-Up Mouth Books

Making books that have hidden surprises—flaps to lift up, shapes to pop open, tabs to pull—adds zest to children’s storytelling and artwork. Pop-ups in particular have an enduring appeal for kids—of all ages! And pop-ups that form “talking mouths” are especially compelling. This format is great for science units on animal habitats and life cycles, for a lesson on dialog or for writing a biography or autobiography.

Materials & Tools

- Medium weight paper, any color; 24 lb. paper is a good choice, sturdy but not too thick for children to fold.
- Scissors, writing & drawing supplies.
- Optional: glue sticks and notions like googly eyes, collage material, etc.

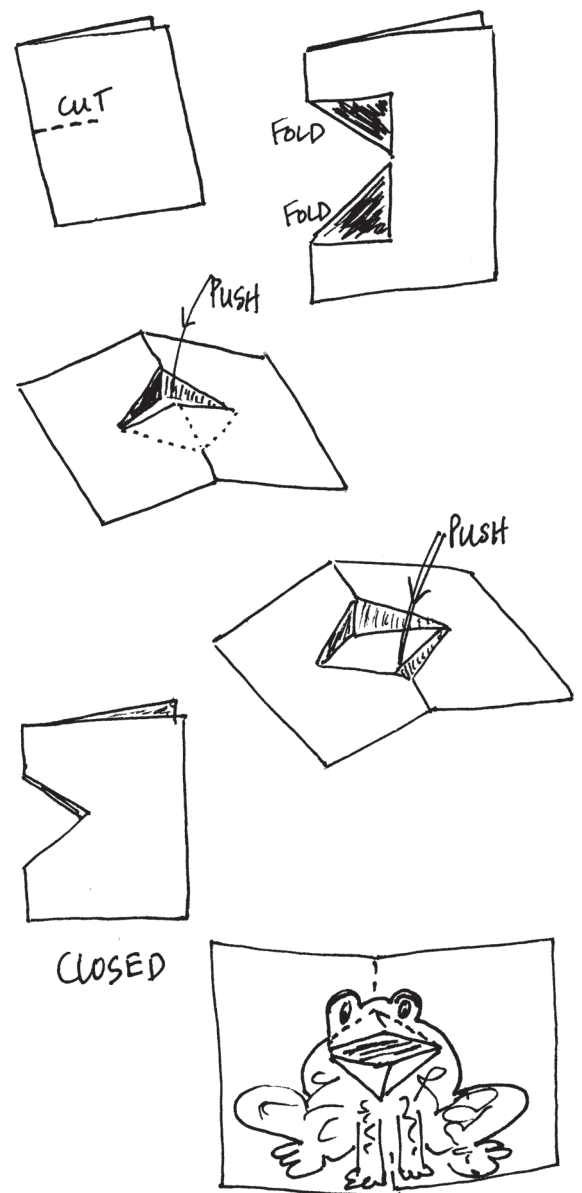
Step By Step

Constructing a pop-up mouth entails making one cut through the crease of a folded page, and then folding triangles around the cut.

You can cut a pop-up mouth into a page that’s simply been folded in half, as these diagrams illustrate. Or, you can cut a mouth into a valley fold of an accordion book or into any fold of a single-sheet booklet. Here are the steps:

- Fold a piece of paper in half lengthwise.
- Make one cut, starting at the fold.
- Crease the paper on both sides of the cut into triangles; then fold both triangles back and forth until they move easily.
- Flatten the triangles, then prop up your folded paper so that it looks like a tent.
- Put your finger on the top triangle and push it into the tent. Do the same thing with the bottom triangle.
- Fold the “tent” around the open pop-up and press it flat.
- Now every time you open and close your paper, the triangles will look like a talking mouth.

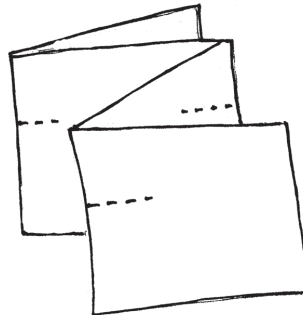
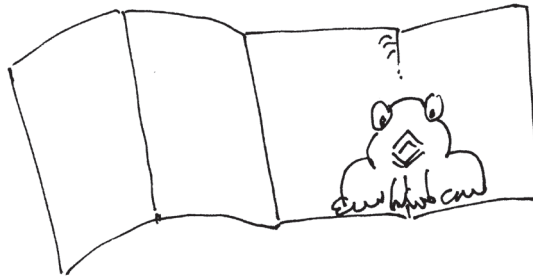
When students are enchanted by the way a book works, they’re eager to make everything else about it special, too: their pictures, their writing ... right down to penmanship, capitalization, punctuation and spelling.



What to Do With Mouth Pop-Ups

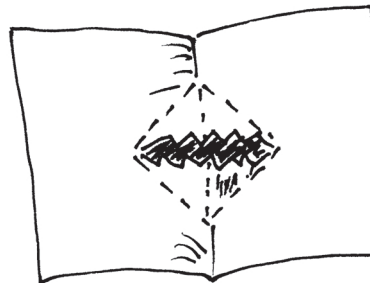
Frog Life Cycle or Habitat Narratives

- Color your triangles green and draw the body of a frog around them.
- Draw a speech balloon so you can write down what your frog is saying.
- Give it a tongue so it can catch flies.
- Create a whole pond habitat around your frog. If you construct your frog on the last fold of a long accordion, you'll have room to draw frog eggs and tadpoles, plus more space for writing.
- By using all the folds in an accordion book, you'll have room for more frogs! A four-panel accordion has three valley folds for pop-ups.



Stories About Birds

- Color your triangles yellow and draw the body of a bird around them. Add a nest.
- Is your bird a baby, waiting for food? Is your bird an adult, sitting on eggs? Add some illustrations and some text to let your readers know what's going on.



Talking Heads

- Your triangles can be mouths for people, too. Draw a self-portrait around your triangles.
- Use speech balloons to tell your readers about yourself.

Fierce Beasts

- Try changing the shape of the cut you make.
- A zigzag will produce a ferocious-looking mouth, full of sharp fangs. A curvy cut will look like luscious lips.



POP-UPS ON THE WEB

How to make pop-ups:
Very simple instructions from Joan Irvine's book, *How to Make Pop-Ups* at <http://makersgallery.com/joanirvine/howto.html>.

For lots of Robert Sabuda pop-ups, from basic to dazzlingly sophisticated, visit *Simple Pop-Ups You can Make* at <http://robertsabuda.com/popmakesimple.asp>.

Here's a list of web sites where you can link to online exhibitions of pop-up books, both historical and contemporary examples: <http://www.popupbooks.net/main.html>.