

A graphic of an orange t-shirt with a white outline, centered on a white background. The shirt is surrounded by several overlapping circles in various shades of orange and yellow. The text is centered within a large, light yellow circle that overlaps the shirt's chest area.

Orange Shirt Day

Online Learning:
Accordion Books

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Our Step-by-Step Accordion Book resource will allow you and your students to make **one-of-a-kind** artistic books. This Visual Arts activity encourages students to **reflect on the role** schooling has played in their lives. Following the creation of their Accordion Book, students can fill the pages with their thoughts, connections and understandings of the role school plays in their lives.

Suggested Grade Range

Grades 1+

Curriculum Links

The Arts – Visual Arts
Language

Key vocabulary words

Accordion Book: An accordion book is an artist's book that can be constructed without stitching. Accordion books are composed of a continuous folded sheet of paper that you can stand up to view all the pages at once

Orange Shirt Day: Marked annually on September 30, Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) Residential School (1891-1981) Commemoration Project and Reunion events in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in May 2013. For further details, check out the following [weblink](#)

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation:

First recognized on September 30, 2021, this day honours the lost children and Survivors of Residential Schools, their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process. This federal statutory holiday was created through legislative amendments made by Parliament.

Required Materials

- Cardstock or Cardboard
- 11x17 Bond or Copy Paper
- Scissors
- Glue Stick
- Markers
- Pen/Pencil

Optional Materials

- Paint
- Paint Brushes
- Sponges
- Pastels
- Pencil / Crayons
- Assorted Fabric
- Tissue Paper
- Construction Paper
- Pen/Pencil

Step by Step Instructions

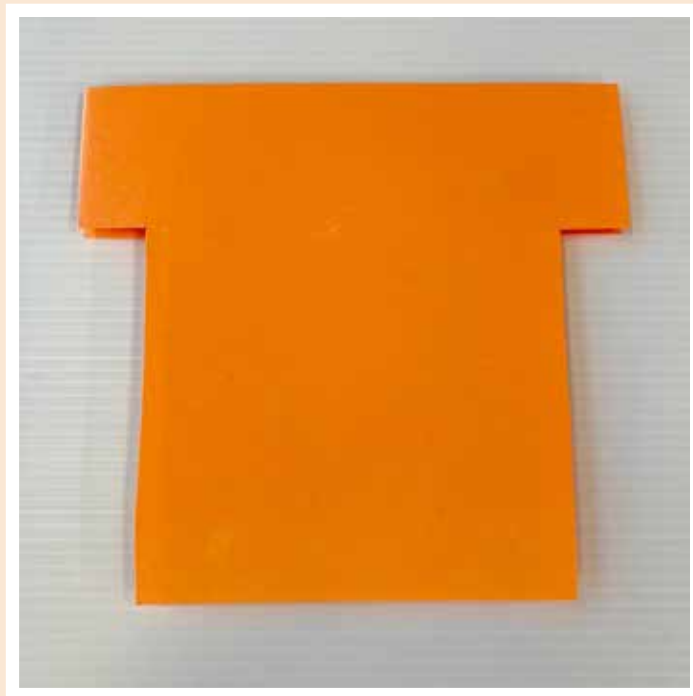
Step 1

Introduce the topic of Orange Shirt Day

Engage your students in an introductory conversation about their understanding of Orange Shirt Day. Depending on the grade level of your students, you may be introducing this concept or activating prior knowledge.

A suggested way to begin this conversation is to ask students what is significant about September 30. Students may connect to the date differently: some may recognize it as Orange Shirt Day, while others may be more familiar with the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. At the same time, some may not be familiar with either. As a reminder, a brief description and additional links to Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation can be found in the Key Terminology section of this resource.

An important point to share with students is that the Residential School system meant many children were taken away from their families, attending schools far away from their homes. In Residential Schools, students were not allowed to speak their language, practice their traditions or share any aspect of their culture.



Please note that the conversations about Residential Schools may significantly impact some students. Please refer to our Teacher's Resource Guide for a list of helplines, online resources and other supports you may direct students to.

Visit harbourfrontcentre.com for more E-Learning Resources

Step 2

Introduce the Artist Accordion Books

Introduce the accordion book project to students. Students will work with paper and other materials to create their accordion book. After completing the book, they can use the pages to reflect on the school's role in their lives: What are students able to do at school? What connections do they feel to their peers, teachers and other school staff? Are students encouraged to share about themselves and their traditions, beliefs and culture? What is their school story?



Step 3

Gather Materials

Gather materials. Cardstock and scissors will be used first to create the book covers.



Step 4

Cut Cardstock into Shape for Book Covers

Cut two pieces of cardstock into equal shapes and size – these will become the front and back covers of your book. Be mindful that the covers will need to be large enough to accommodate the interior paper booklet (cardstock should be no smaller than 16cm x 13cm).



Step 5

Decorate Book Covers

Decorate one side of each of your book covers. Books often have a title or artwork depicting the story inside.





Step 6

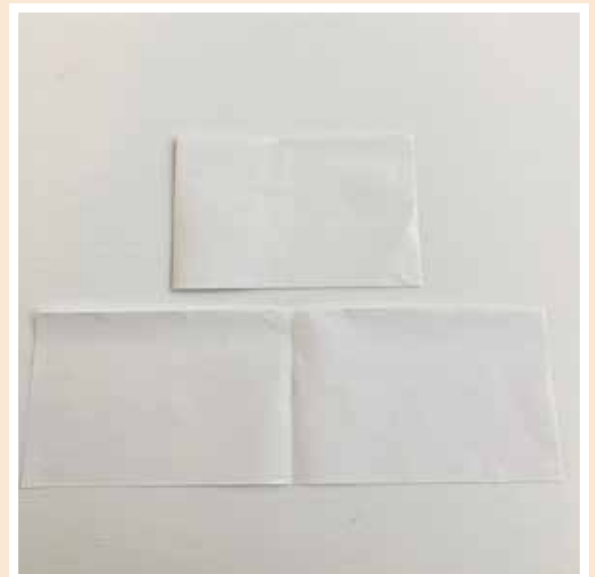
Fold & Cut Copy Paper

Fold the 11x17 copy paper in half lengthwise and crease. Cut the crease in the centre of the paper with scissors, be as precise as possible.

Step 7

Fold Paper in Half, Crease & Unfold

Fold the copy paper in half width wise and crease. Unfold the crease and flatten copy paper.



Step 8

Bring Edge to Centre and Crease

Bring one edge of the copy paper to the centre crease and fold.

Step 9

Repeat on Opposite Edge

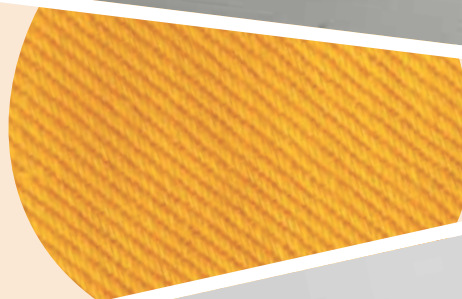
Bring opposite edge of the copy paper to the centre crease and fold.



Step 10

Flip Booklet

Fold booklet in opposite direction of main centre crease, refold and crease to flatten booklet pages in the opposite direction.



Step 11

Attach Back Cover with Glue

Use glue to attach booklet paper to the non-decorated side of the back cover.



Step 12

Attach Front Cover with Glue

Use glue to attach booklet paper to the non-decorated side of the front cover.



Step 13

Fill the Pages of your Book

Use the pages of the book to tell your story. Depending on the type of glue you have used, you may need to let the glue dry before students can write inside.



Extensions

What can the participant do to continue working on this technique or project beyond the step by step?

- Have students read each other's books to learn more about the role school plays in the lives of their fellow students.
- Consider making a second accordion book. In this book, students can use the pages to share about their family, community or anything that makes them feel connected to others.