



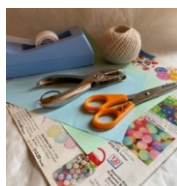
04737 Fuller Road, East Jordan, MI 49727
(231) 536-3369 | www.miravenhill.org
info@miravenhill.org

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Mission: Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

Cinco de Mayo

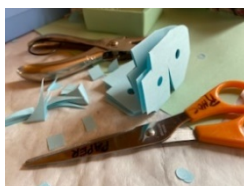
Cinco de Mayo or the 5th of May is a celebration of the Mexican defeat of the French in 1862. Mexico won the battle, but ultimately lost the war. It is NOT Mexico's independence day. Cinco de Mayo is a national, historical, ethnic and cultural celebration and includes parades, food, music and battle reenactments. In the United States, Cinco de Mayo is celebrated more than in Mexico and is a celebration of [Mexican-American](#) culture. Mexican paper cutting or papel picados -- "pecked paper" -- is a tradition that arose in early Mexico. The Aztec people first chiseled spirit figures into bark, which later became the art form now known as papel picado. During [Aztec](#) times, the Aztecs used [mulberry](#) and [fig tree](#) bark to make a rough paper called "[Amati](#)". Today, artisans usually layer 40 to 50 layers of tissue paper and punch intricate designs into them using a chisel. You will need tissue paper or colored paper or colored pages from an old catalog, white copy paper, scissors, a paper punch (if you have one) and string for hanging. *Fold a rectangular piece of paper several times and cut it* in the same way that you would make snowflake cutouts. When you open up your paper, it will have patterns of symmetrical shapes. You can tape or glue it to the white paper, so your design shows up better. Make several papel picado and tape them to a length of string. Hang the "banner" up to decorate your house for Cinco de Mayo.



1 Supplies



2 Fold paper



3 Cut paper



4 Mount paper



5 Hang banner



Cheri's attempt at pecked paper (papel picado)



Traditional papel picado