Raven Hill DISCOVERY CENTER
WHERE SCIENCE, HISTORY AND ART CONNECT

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Raven Hill Discovery Center is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

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

Paper dolls

Making a chain of paper dolls is easy and fun! All you need is paper, scissors and some colored pencils or markers or crayons for individually coloring your dolls. Take a piece of paper (8.5" x 11") and cut it lengthwise. Fold it into quarters accordion (pleated) style, as if you were folding a fan. Draw a person or ginger bread man on the top layer. Be sure that the arms extend beyond the edge of the folded sheet. Cut your person out without cutting the ends of the arms. Unfold. You will get a chain of dolls holding hands. To have more dolls in your chain, use a larger sheet of paper and fold more pleats before cutting. Or you can use more than one sheet of paper and connect the figures with tape. Use crayons, markers or colored pencils to make each doll different and unique. You can decorate the figures with eyes, nose, mouth, hair, and clothes. You can make variations such as paper figures that have dresses or don't have dresses. Or you can make a chain of ginger bread men or teddy bears. Making paper doll chains is an example of Kirigami. Kirigami is the Japanese art of cutting paper, named from the words "kiru" (to cut) and "kami" (paper). Kirigami and origami are often confused, but origami is folding only, while both cutting & taping are okay in Kirigami projects. It's thought that Kirigami was first used in Japanese temples as a way to make offerings to the gods. By the 17th century, Kirigami was considered a true art form throughout Asia. People in Japan and China create Kirigami designs to represent wealth, perfection, grace, elegance and man's relationship with the universe.
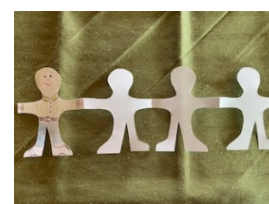

1 Supplies   2 Fold paper lengthwise   3 Fold accordion style   4 Draw figure   5 Cut figure out, unfold, color