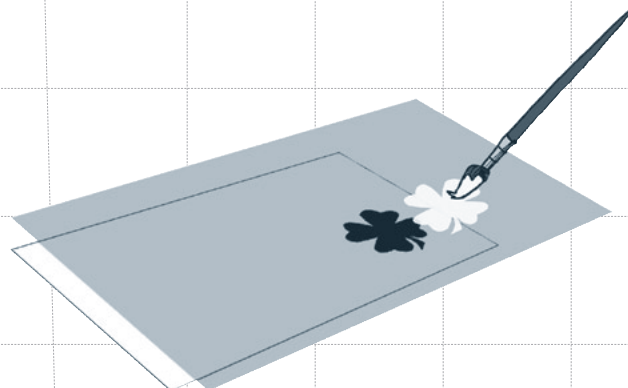


Make Your Own Watermarked Bill

A watermark is a special design on a piece of paper (such as a dollar bill or a piece of stationary) that is embedded into the paper itself. They are a part of the security measures taken by the Treasury Department to discourage counterfeiters. For example, on the \$100 bill, there is a watermark of a smaller Ben Franklin next to the Ben Franklin portrait. You can see watermarks when you hold the piece of paper up to light. Of course, you can't make money to use in stores or banks. But you can make your own paper money to use at home or with your friends for fun.

1 Using the black pen, draw the design you'd like to be your watermark on the piece of paper. Your watermark can be anything you'd like, such as your lucky number, your initial, or a shape. Just be careful not to make it bigger than your 5-by-7-inch frame and be careful not to make it too detailed. A heavily detailed design will be difficult to trace with glue.



Supplies

- * piece of white paper
- * black pen
- * a piece of 7-by-9-inch piece of window screen
- * waterproof wood glue OR puff paint found with the fabric paint in most craft stores
- * wax paper
- * a 5-by-7-inch wooden frame
- * a staple gun*
- * the directions for homemade paper found in the previous chapter
- * green food coloring (optional)
- * markers for decorating

***Caution:** Use only with an adult's help and permission.

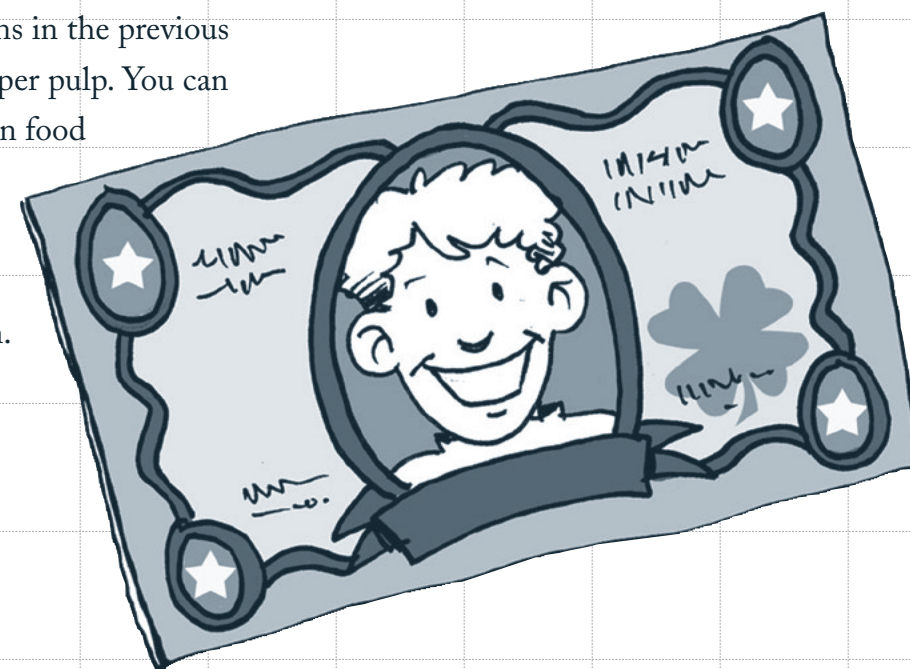
2 Once you've drawn a watermark, lay the screen over the piece of paper. Next, use the waterproof glue to "trace" over the design. After tracing the design, carefully pick the screen off the white paper and put it on a piece of wax paper to dry. Allow the glue to dry completely.

3 When the glue is dry, attach the screen to the back of the wooden frame using the staple gun. Make sure you pull the screen tight and be sure your watermark design is facing inside the frame. You now have a paper money mold!

4 Follow the directions in the previous chapter to make paper pulp. You can add a few drops of green food coloring to the pulp while it's still in the blender if you'd like your money to be green.

5 Use your new money mold to scoop up some pulp. Because of the watermark, you will want to make sure you push out all the extra water you can with the sponge. If you don't, the water may cause the paper to fill in the watermark.

6 Carefully turn the mold over and let your money dry completely. When it's ready, you can decorate the bill. Maybe you can draw your own portrait on it or special microprinting around the edges. Have some fun designing it!



Time needed:

30 minutes, not including drying time