

Mathfinder

Teachers, please copy both sides of this page for your students to take home.

Dear Students and Parents,

We hope you enjoyed your recent day of mathematics exploration and investigation with Pacific Science Center's *Mathfinder* van. The Science On Wheels program, which began operating in 1974, is an interactive outreach program that travels to schools across the state of Washington.

The *Mathfinder* van provides students with hands-on mathematics experiences. Students participate in a lively assembly, explore an interactive exhibit area and receive a 45-minute hands-on lesson. Our goal is to foster an interest in science, technology and mathematics.

We encourage you to talk about our visit and spend some time investigating more math topics together. The activities on this page are designed for you to do with your family and friends. They require few materials and are easy to do.

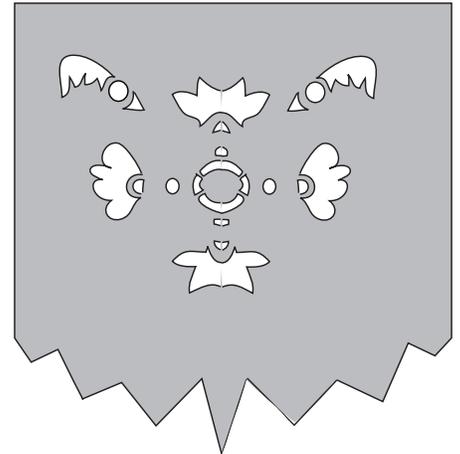
~Science On Wheels Teachers

Paper Picado

Explore cutting out different shapes from a folded piece of paper to see what new shapes you create. Then find the symmetry of your picado, a decoration used in some Latino communities.

Procedure:

- Cut a piece of paper into a rectangle about 8 x 11 inches. Fold in half in any direction.
- Fold in half again (any direction).
- Fold in half one more time (any direction). That's three folds total.
- Cut shapes along the edges and folds. You might cut shapes like triangles, half circles, diamonds or try combining shapes.
- Unfold your paper and see what new shapes you have created.
- Can you test to see if your picado is symmetrical? (When you fold it in half, one side will look just like the other if it is symmetrical.)
- Can you figure out what shape to cut if you want your finished product to have a star in it? How about a moon or heart? Try it!
- Hang your picados around your home.



Materials

- scissors
- tissue paper, recycled gift wrap or wax paper

