

Topics: Paper Creations,
Geometry, Botany

Materials List

- ✓ 3 Yellow circles
- ✓ 1 Black circle
- ✓ Sponge dauber
- ✓ Brown ink
- ✓ Optional: Green paper

This activity can be used to teach:

- Shapes and parts of shape (Common Core Math Standards: Geometry, Grade 2, 1, 3; Grade 3, 2)
- Fractions & Operations with fractions (Common Core Math Standards: Number & Operations - Fractions, Grade 3, 1, 3; Grade 4, 1-3)
- Plant structures (Next Generation Science Standards: Grade 4, Life Science 1-1)

Paper Sunflowers

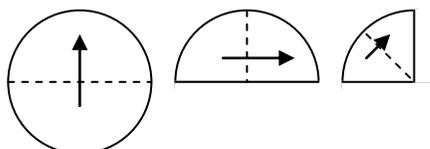
An easy craft project that makes a great card or decoration



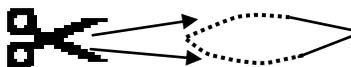
Each sunflower is made from 3 yellow punched circles. The center is a black circle punched from black paper, cardstock, or a file folder.

Assembly

1. Hand cut or die cut 3 circles from yellow copy paper. [~8 cm (3") circles make a nice size for a card that will have one sunflower.] Die cuts are available at RAFT.
2. Fold each circle in half, then quarters, then eighths.



3. Use scissors to cut a petal shape through all eight layers of paper. Have your petal go two thirds of the way down on your circle sector.



4. Fold and cut the other two circles the same way. Unfold each of the petal units.
5. Using a sponge dauber, sponge some color onto the tips of the petals.
6. Assemble the sunflower by layering and gluing the petal sections one on top of the other. (Your sunflower will have a total of 24 petals.)
7. Cut or punch a black circle- its diameter should be half the diameter of your original yellow circles.
8. Glue the black circle in the center of your sunflower.
9. If you wish to have leaves on your card, cut green paper into rectangles. For 5 cm (2") flower circles, a 5 cm x 8 cm (2" x 3") rectangle will work well. For 8 cm (3") flower circles, a 8 cm x 11 cm (3" x 4.25") rectangle will work.
10. Fold the rectangle in half lengthwise. Use a deckle-edged scissor to cut a leaf shape. Unfold.

Content Behind the Activity

Only 4 globally important crops are native to the United States: blueberry, cranberry, pecan... and the sunflower. With uses ranging from oil to ornamentals to snack food, farmers have several million acres of land devoted to sunflower production. Native Americans have used wild sunflowers for a variety of purposes (flour, sunflower butter, medicine) for at least 8,000 years. Recent cultivation has produced over 2,000 varieties for specific purposes, such as increased oil content. The Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) is a member of the astor/daisy family.

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=262 for more resources!)

Connect this activity with famous paintings by Vincent Van Gogh. For more information, visit: <http://www.vangoghgallery.com/painting/sunflowerindex.html>