The “I’m A Star” Storybook


Make the Book: You will need a large sheet of paper,* glue, scissors, and writing and drawing tools. See the video demonstration and these downloadable instructions at www.SmithsonianEducation.org/Heritage. Younger children might need assistance.

1. Fold the sheet of paper in half horizontally. Crease, open, and cut in half on the fold line.
2. Stack the two halves and make the paper into a roll. Then flatten the roll down. This will divide the sheet roughly into three parts. Adjust the folds as needed to make the three parts even.
3. Cut on each of the fold lines to get six equal pieces of paper.
4. Pick one piece to be the spine of the book. Fold it in half vertically.
5. Fold the top edge back to meet the folded edge. Crease. Flip, and do the same on the other side. Crease. The piece of paper should look like a W when placed on the table.
6. Put the W on its side and flatten. Fold the top edge back to meet the folded edge. Crease. Flip, and do the same on the other side. Crease. Now the piece looks like “hills,” with a taller “peak” in the middle.
7. Flip it over and flatten the peak. Then fold each side in toward the center “peak” fold line. Refold the “peak” line and close so you have an accordion. Now you have two flaps on each end with three “hills” of the same height in the middle.
8. Put glue on one of the outer flaps of the spine. Then take one of the remaining five pieces of paper and adhere a short side edge to the glued part of the spine to make the cover of your book. Repeat to make the back cover of your book.
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* We recommend 14” x 17” or a similar size paper.
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9. Fold and cut the remaining three pieces of paper as in Step 1. You will have six strips.

10. Now open the book to add pages. You should see three “hills” inside. If you don’t, flip the book over.

11. Flatten the “hills” to lie flat like pages of a book.

12. Put glue on the upper half of the first “hill” and adhere the short left end of one strip, aligning it so it touches the cover fold.

13. Flip the “hill,” put glue on the bottom half of the “hill,” and adhere the short right end of one strip.

14. Repeat with the next two “hills” and the four remaining strips of paper. Your book is ready!

15. It looks simple on the outside but is very cool inside. When you open it all the way, the spine makes a STAR!

**Write the Story:** Think of things that make you a star. Ask family and friends for ideas. Write and draw pictures to fill the pages of the book with your star qualities. You could also add star qualities you wish to have.

**Share Your Story:** Post pictures of your “I’m A Star” storybook on the Smithsonian Heritage Programming Facebook page.