

# LANDSCAPE PEEPSHOW



Paper peepshows, also known as tunnel books or theatre books, are a great, relatively simple way to capture a memory or depict a scene. Layered paper panels, attached to two concertina-folded side structures, create a 3D effect. This project makes use of found images to take the viewer on a walk through the woods. You can choose to use the templates provided, or your own subject and images. The construction is simpler than it looks – in fact, the trickiest bit of this project is probably the papercutting involved in creating the individual scenes.

Project by Clare Bryan

## YOU WILL NEED

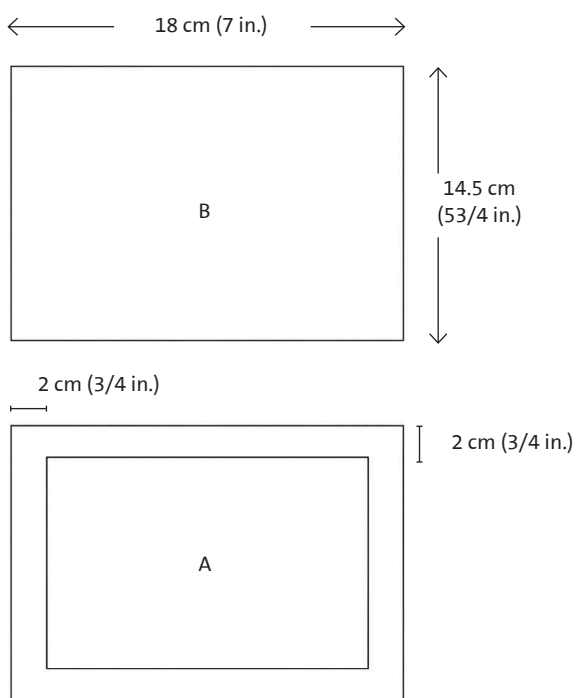
- 1 x A4 sheet thin card or heavyweight white paper, 200 gsm
- Craft knife or scalpel, with blades
- Small pair craft scissors
- Cutting mat
- 6 x A4 sheets mid-weight white paper, 160 gsm
- Metal ruler
- Sharp pencil
- Bone folder
- PVA glue and brush
- 1 piece paper or card, 160–200 gsm, 60 x 15 cm (23 1/2 x 6 in.), for cover

## Optional

- Colour printer/photocopier
- Image selection, to decorate scenic panels (see step 3 for notes on how to select images)
- Circle cutter, suitable for paper
- Paints, colouring pens or crayons

# How to make

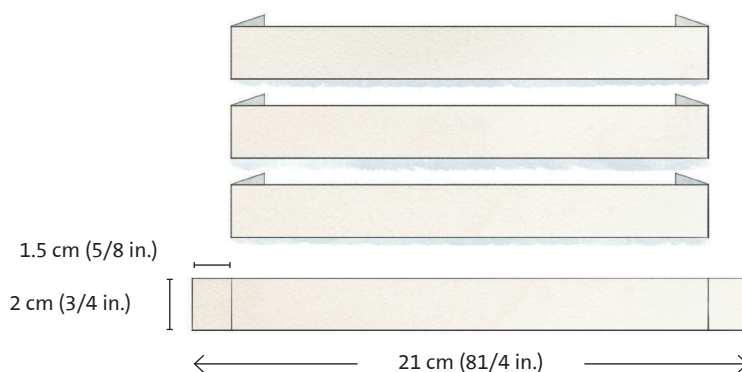
1 First, cut out panels A and B to size (see illustration below) from the heavier (200 gsm) A4 paper or card. The panels are the same size, but panel A is cut out in the centre to create a frame — you will need to use a scalpel or craft knife for this step.

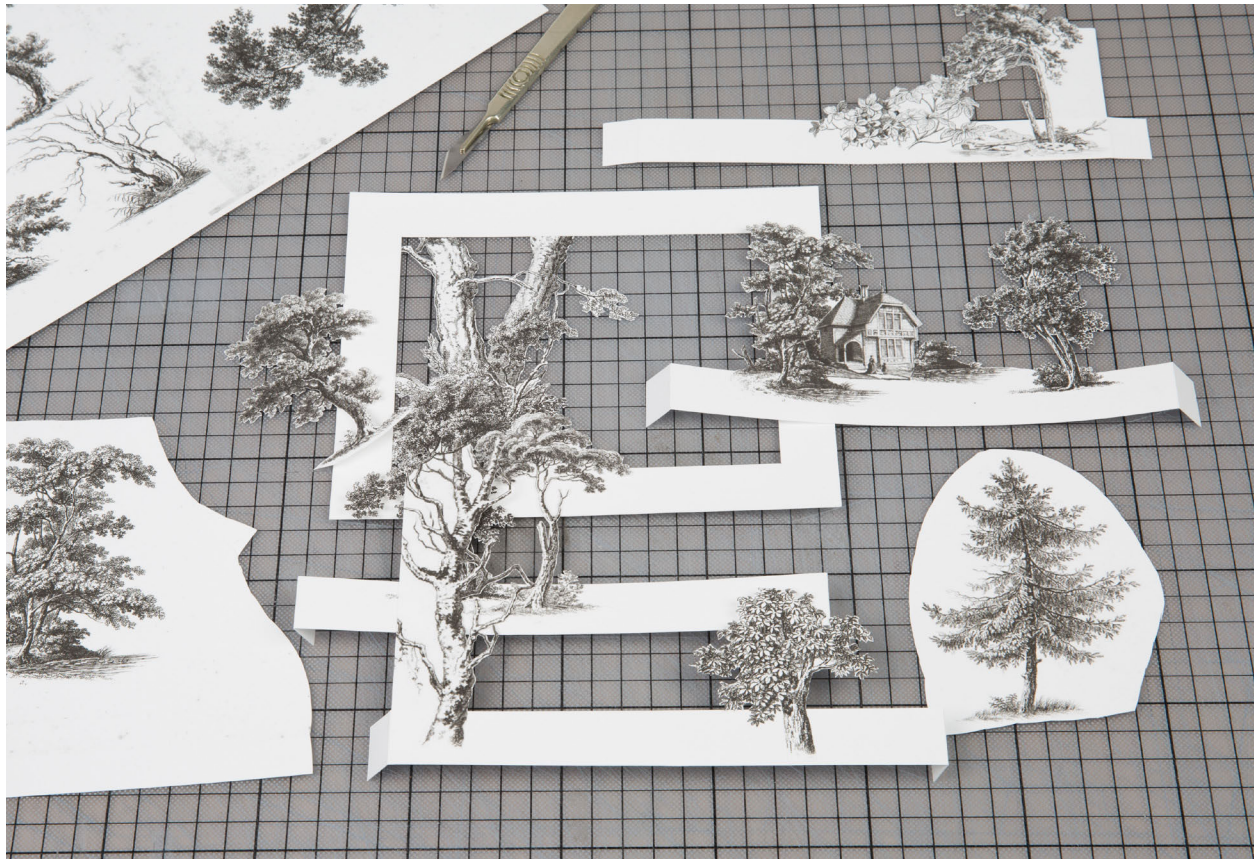


2 The four scenic panels of the peepshow ‘book’ are cut from mid-weight (160 gsm) paper. If you are using the Layer 1–4 scenic templates provided, transfer the designs to your mid-weight paper (you can use tracing paper, or print the templates directly to mid-weight paper if your printer allows). Cut them out, score along the dashed fold lines, then fold back to form tabs. Transfer and cut out the moon design on the Back template to your back piece B. Decorate the scenic panels as you wish, with paints, pens or crayons, or leave blank.



3 If you would prefer to use your own found imagery to create your scenic panels, first make the bases. Cut four strips from mid-weight (160 gsm) paper, each 2 cm x 21 cm (3/4 x 8 1/4 in.). On each strip, measure 1.5 cm (5/8 in.) in from both sides, score fold lines and fold back the edges to form tabs (these will eventually be used to glue the panels in place).

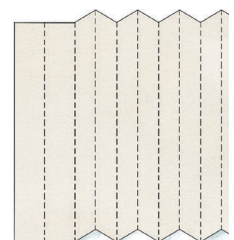
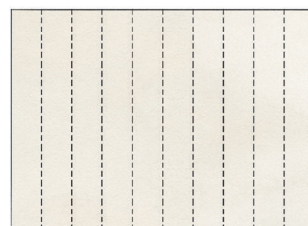




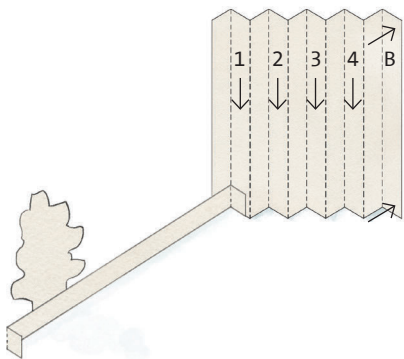
Print your chosen images directly onto mid-weight (160 gsm) paper or cut out pictures from magazines, backing them before attaching to the strips.

4 To decorate your panels, first decide on your theme or imagery — trees, in our example — and decide what will be on each of the four panels and the back panel B. As the peepshow extends, a ‘depth of field’ is created, so select something simple (for example a sun, moon or clouds) for the back panel B. The scenes should gradually decrease in height and increase in detail as you get nearer to the ‘foreground’. With this in mind, attach your images to panel B and to the base strips. Print your images direct to mid-weight (160 gsm) paper, cut them out (using a scalpel or craft scissors), and glue them to the strips. Alternatively, cut images roughly from magazines or similar and back them onto this paper before cutting out the details.

5 Cut two pieces of mid-weight (160 gsm) paper, each measuring 14.5 x 20 cm (53/4 x 77/8 in.). Using a ruler and pencil, mark the long edge of each strip in 2 cm (3/4 in.) increments, then score and fold to create two concertina-folded side pieces.



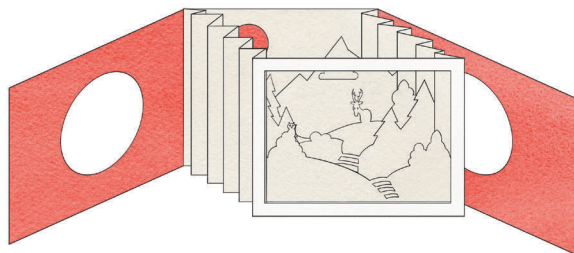
6 Starting with one of the concertina side pieces, glue the scenic panels in place, in order, as shown in the illustration below (note the position of the front-most panel, inside the first concertina fold). Once all panels have been glued to the first side piece, attach the other tabs to the second concertina piece in the same way, ensuring both sides match up. Tip: Apply glue to the panel tabs using a glue brush and a stippling motion, to achieve a thin, even coat. You can ensure good adhesion by placing waste paper over each glued joint and smoothing it flat for a few minutes using your fingers or a bone folder.



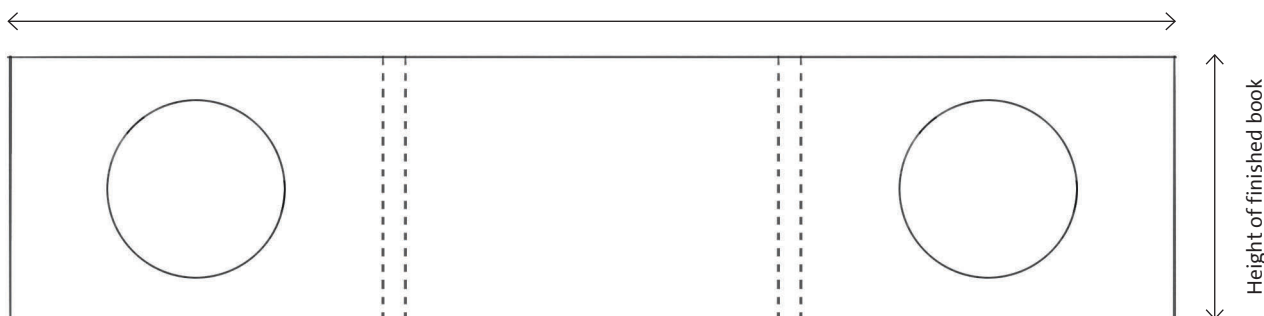
7 Finish by gluing panel A, the frame, to the front. This forms a viewing window and strengthens the entire structure. Tip: Once everything is glued together, place the folded peepshow between heavy books or boards for 20–30 minutes to make sure everything dries flat.

8 The final step is making the wrap-around cover. Start by measuring the full width (closed) depth, and height of your book so far. (The width should be 18 cm (7 in.) and the height should be 14.5 cm (5 3/4 in.) but the depth may vary.) Using these measurements, mark up your heavyweight (200 gsm) paper or thin card according to the diagram below. Cut this template out, score along the dashed lines and fold.

9 To create a viewing window in the cover, as shown in the diagram, carefully mark the centre of the 'front' cover flap (it can be either) and use a circle cutter to make this aperture. Alternatively, draw around a circular object and cut out the shape with a craft knife. Fold in the cover flaps, mark the same circle on the second flap, so they match up, and cut again.



Three times the width and twice the depth of finished book





If you are adding a viewing window, make sure each one lines up when the book cover is closed.

10 The back panel of your peepshow can now be glued to the centre panel of the cover or, alternatively, keep the cover loose, so the peepshow itself can be removed. This can work well if your scenic panels have holes cut into them — a light source behind will add to the drama of your finished book.

## Now try...

Something a bit more complex. You can add to the number of folds in the side panels, and add extra layers — some nineteenth-century examples have ten or more scenes! It is also possible to create sophisticated effects using copies of the same image for each 'panel'; the image (a map, for instance) can be used in full at the back of the book, with the layers in front increasingly cut away, to create a 3D effect.

## Scenic templates

