

ART ACTIVITY: Take & Make

Lotus Flower Pop-up Card

The lotus flower is an important symbol in different cultures and religions. In Buddhism, it represents enlightenment, or discovery of the truth. The lotus shows great perseverance and resilience as it roots in mud, but rises through murky water toward the sunlight, where it blossoms into a beautiful flower. Buddha and other deities are often shown atop a lotus flower, indicating that they have attained enlightenment, by rising above the “mud” and distractions of the mind.



Draw inspiration from VMFA’s Asian Art Collections, which can be found at www.vmfa.museum/collections/. VMFA is home to a wide variety of East Asian and South Asian works of art. Explore these works online and then create your own Lotus Flower Pop-up!

SUPPLIES

- Lotus template (provided below)
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Paper for card base (this can be printer paper, scrap paper, construction paper, etc.)
- Paper scraps
- *Optional:* hole punch, other recycled materials to include in your collage

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Start by collecting the materials and supplies noted above. Once you have your supplies, take the piece of paper that will serve as your card. Fold your paper in half to create a greeting card. This can be any size or shape desired.
2. Using glue or tape, attach your scrap paper pieces to the front of your card. Have fun with your design by collaging, or overlapping, paper pieces. You can also experiment with tearing paper to create rough edges, or including other recycled materials (such as tissue paper, bubble wrap, string, ribbon, etc.) to your collage to add texture.
3. After you have finished your collage, cut-out the lotus and circle from the template provided on this activity sheet. Using your markers, crayons, or colored pencils, add color and designs to your lotus flower template. After coloring, set aside the circle template for now – we will use this later in the project.
4. Glue your lotus flower template on top of your collaged design. Fold the petals of your lotus upward to make them pop-up.
5. Select a small strip of paper (or cut a small strip of paper), roughly 4–5 inches long. Fold the strip of paper back and forth to create a *zig-zag* or *fan fold*.



6. Glue one end of your folded strip of paper to the center of your lotus so that it stands up.
7. Pick up the circle that you cut out of the template provided on this activity sheet and glue the circle to the free end of your folded zig-zag paper. This will make the center of your lotus flower stand out.
OPTIONAL: Before gluing your circle down, you can use a hole punch to make several small holes into the center of your circle to represent the seed pod of the lotus flower.



Lotus Flower Template:

Cut out the lotus flower and flower center (circle) seen below.

