



# Pasadena Museum of History

Make-at home art activity

## Pasadena Oak Tree



The Engelmann Oak (*quercus engalmanii*), also known as the Pasadena Oak is a special tree found along the Arroyo Seco.

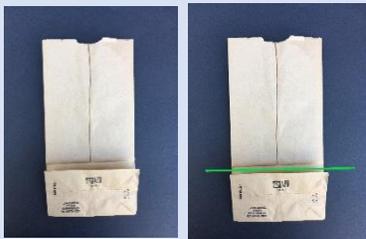
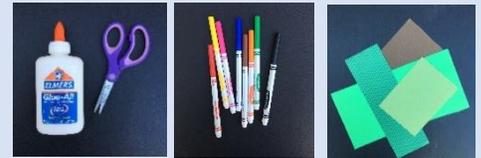
The Pasadena Oak has a large, lush canopy of grey-green leaves with acorns that provides shelter for butterflies and birds.

You can easily find these materials at home to create a paper tree sculpture to celebrate MOTA Day.



### To begin:

You will need a paper bag,  
Any size bag will work.  
You can also use a grocery bag.  
You will also need  
scissors, glue, paper,  
crayons or markers.

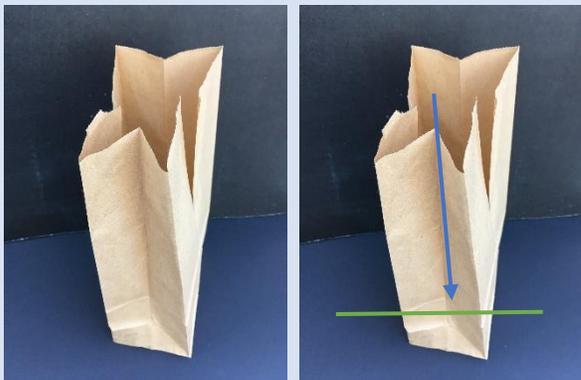


### Cut the bag:

Fold the paper bag flat.  
You will see there is a fold line  
around the bottom of the bag.



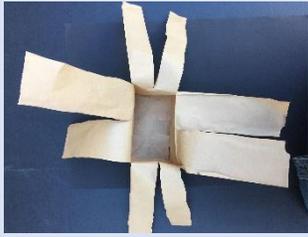
Draw a line from the center top of the bag down to the fold line. Cut the center line and STOP cutting at the fold.



### Open the bag.

Starting from the top, cut EACH fold and crease line  
around the bag - stop cutting at the bottom fold.

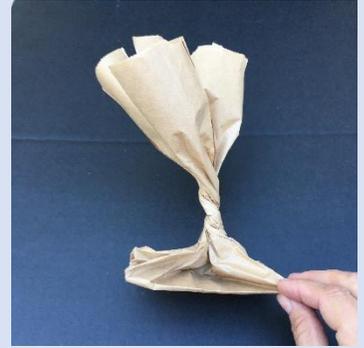




Make the tree trunk:

After you have cut all of the creased fold lines on all sides of the bag, you will have a flat bottom with cut paper strips.

Gather the paper strips.



Twist the strips together. Keep twisting to form the tree trunk. Keep the bottom flat.



Make the branches:

Take one of the paper strips and begin twisting. Keep twisting to form a branch.

You can cut the paper strips in half to make smaller branches.

Keep twisting, and cutting...



...until you have a gnarly tree.

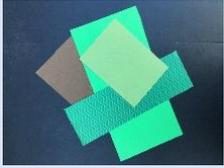


Time to add leaves!



The Pasadena Oak tree's leaves are smooth, long and oval shaped.

The leaves are grey-green in color.



To make leaves:

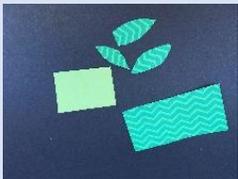
Use can use whatever paper you have on hand. Color construction paper or scrap book paper are great.



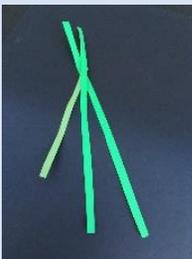
If you do not have green paper, you can cut up old magazines...



...or color leaves onto white paper.



Draw and cut many leaves.



You can also cut and crumple up strips of paper.



Glue the leaves onto your tree.



**Wonderful!**

What other types of trees can you make?

Experiment and see what you can create.



Tissue paper and napkins



Stickers



Ribbon



You can share images of your tree on Instagram  
#pasadenamuseumofhistory

[www.pasadenamuseumofhistory.org](http://www.pasadenamuseumofhistory.org)



You can learn details and scientific data about the Engelmann Oak. The California Native Plant Society has an interactive map of tree locations.

[https://calscape.org/Quercus-engelmannii-\(Engelmann-Oak\)](https://calscape.org/Quercus-engelmannii-(Engelmann-Oak))



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