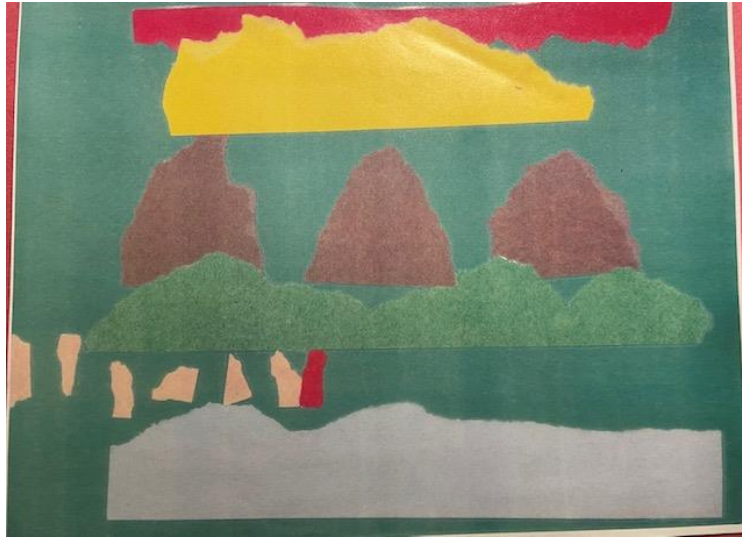




## Torn Paper Memories



### Overview:

Children and/or families will represent a memory of their family camp experience using torn paper and glue sticks. This activity will invite families to reflect upon their time at camp, deepen the connection between camp and home, and get to know one another by sharing those memories.

Torn paper is an inexpensive, flexible medium that does not require precise drawing or cutting skills and can engage a wide range of ages. The act of **tearing** paper is a great fine motor activity for young children. The medium can allow for creations that are as abstract or representational as participants desire.

### Supplies:

- *Background medium:* 8x12 or 9x13 construction paper, card stock, oak tag, or cardboard.
- *Collage material:* construction paper cut into halves or quarters. (Variation: add origami paper, tissue paper, or other attractive printed papers.)
- *Adhesive:* Glue stick – large or jumbo size recommended for small hands
- Wet paper towels or napkins to clean sticky fingers.
- Index cards and writing implement for titles

- Box or container for collecting torn but reusable paper for future groups

### **Directions:**

#### Setup:

- Place one glue stick and one moist paper towel per participant (or per family) at each workspace.
- Place one *background sheet* at each workspace, or if offering a variety of colors, invite families to choose their background sheet when they are ready to begin.
- Arrange the *collage materials* on a separate supply table or in the center of each workspace for participants to share. (If you are outside, make sure scraps are protected from gusts of wind.)

#### Instructions:

- What are some of your favorite moments at camp so far? Share aloud. Today we are going to create something to remind you of your memories of camp when you go back home.
- Once you've decided what you want to make, come up to the supply table and choose up to four colors to start your collage. Which colors do you think you'll need for your picture? (Consider modeling this for families)
- Think about the shapes you'll need for your collage. Tear your paper – practice/experiment with ways to tear – but don't worry if it isn't perfect! (Pro Tip: Very young children may want to just tear paper the whole time. THAT'S OK!)
- Think about where you want to attach the paper(s) you tore. You can put the glue onto your scraps or put the glue on the background. (Consider modeling this for families.)
- Finished? Create a title and/or a description for your collage so everyone can learn more about what you made.
- Make sure to give clean-up directions and designate a space for collages to dry.

### **Follow up**

- Create a display or gallery for families to view in the dining hall or another area where people gather.
- Take photos of the collages and create an online gallery to share with families later.

- If collage isn't dry, or if you want an opportunity to reconnect with families, mail them their creation sometime after family camp. This is a great opportunity for another follow-up.

**Additional Resources:**

- [Tear, Rip, Shred, Create](#) from the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art