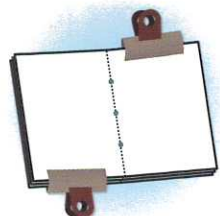


# 20 – Sewn books

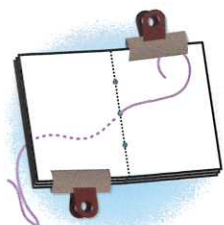
Making books by sewing pages together goes back to antiquity and so introduces children to the book as a cultural archetype. In the hard-covered form, these books are excellent for presenting and protecting whole class projects.

## Make the basic sewn book with a paper cover

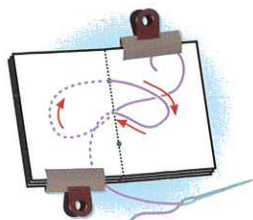
1. One by one, fold in half and then open sheets of high-quality A4 paper. Place the sheets together. Add another, thicker, folded sheet as the cover. Hold the open pages and the cover tightly together using bulldog clips. Using a bookbinder's awl (see page 64), or the point of a pair of compasses, make three evenly-spaced holes through the centre fold.



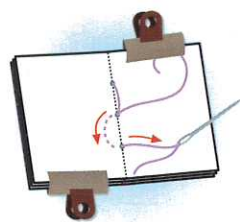
2. Take a length of strong thread four times the height of the pages and thread it onto a strong needle. Starting on the inside of the pages, sew through the middle hole. Leave a 'tail' at the front for tying a knot and secure it under the bulldog clip. Keep the thread tight, but not so tight as to bow the pages.



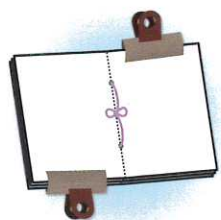
3. Sew through the top hole and then through middle hole again.



4. Sew through the bottom hole.



5. Remove the needle from the thread, and the tail from the clip. Tie a knot tightly over the middle hole and neatly trim the ends of the thread.



★ Helpful hint: ensure that the knot is tight otherwise the pages will be loose.

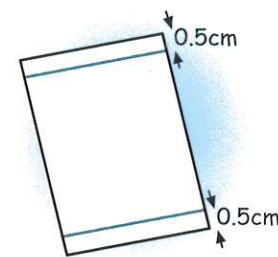
### USE IT!

- Use this book for something special like a recount of a visit to a farm or an original story created by the pupil. Plan how many pages you need in advance. A set of sewn pages is called a section. Do not sew more than ten sheets of folded paper together into a single section.

## Make the basic sewn book with a hard cover

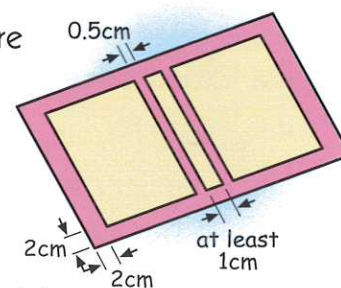
1. For the pages, follow the same instructions as for paper-covered sewn books but don't add a sheet for the cover. If using A3 paper (or larger) make five equally-spaced holes on the centre crease with the top and bottom ones nearer to the edge. The length of thread needs to be twice the height of the book, plus enough to tie a knot. Start the sewing on the outside, not the inside, and sew in loops.

2. For the front cover, lay the folded pages on a piece of board (see page 64). Mark a 0.5 cm margin at the top and bottom, but no margins on the left- and right-hand sides. Cut it out and make a duplicate for the back cover.

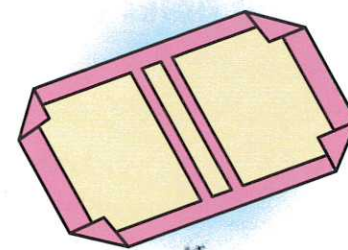


3. The width of the spine is determined by the number of pages in the book and by the mounted work on the pages.

With the book pages loosely closed, measure the thickness. Add a bit more to this to determine how wide the spine should be. Don't make the spine less than 1 cm wide. Lightly glue the centre of the covers and the spine to good quality paper. Allow a 2 cm margin around the edges and about 0.5 cm between the covers and the spine (for larger books allow 1 cm).



4. Glue the cover corners diagonally over the boards.



5. When the glue is dry fold the four margins tightly over the boards. Unfold. Apply glue to the edges of the left- and right-hand side margins. Leave until they feel tacky and then press down. Then do the same to the top and bottom margins.

6. Turn to the back of the pages, glue the edges and the spine. Lay the pages in position on the cover, lining up the middle crease of the pages with the centre of the

spine, and ensuring that the top, bottom and right margins are all equal.

7. Glue down the back of the first page in the same way.

8. Allow the glue to dry. Before closing the book, lightly run your finger down the gap between the cover board and the spine. This will help to stop the page glued onto the cover from lifting off, which is what happens if you close the book with the glue still wet.

★ Helpful hint: put a piece of paper between your hand and the glued area when smoothing down. This will help to keep the book clean.

### USE IT!

- Decide what size paper you need. A2 paper, when folded in half, will give you A3 pages suitable for presenting thematic work – one page per child. For larger formats, like children's artwork, use A1 paper folded in half. Work out the number of pages required and then add two more for gluing into the cover.



'Under the Sea' by a nursery class. A photographic record of the stages in making a sea-life project is compiled in this bound book.