

BOOMbox at Home

Wax Seals

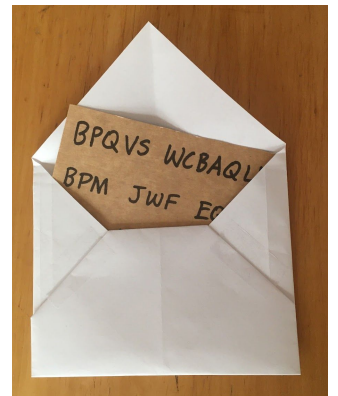
Wax seals have been used for centuries to seal letters closed. They are used to prove that the letter is unopened. When wax seals are personalised with a seal stamp, they are used to prove the identity of the sender.



Warning: This activity requires melting wax. Adult assistance required.

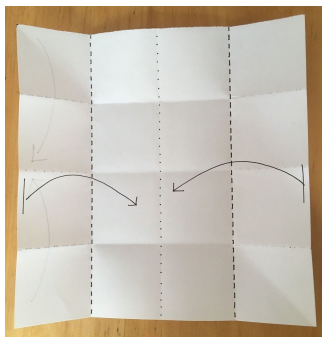
Supplies

- paper
- crayons or sealing wax
- a heat proof and waterproof container
- pan with boiling water, or hair dryer
- a seal stamp to decorate your wax seal (optional: you can also design a personalised stamp on [Tinkercad](#) and print it out using the [Skokie Library 3D printing service](#))
- an envelope or extra paper to fold your own envelope (optional)

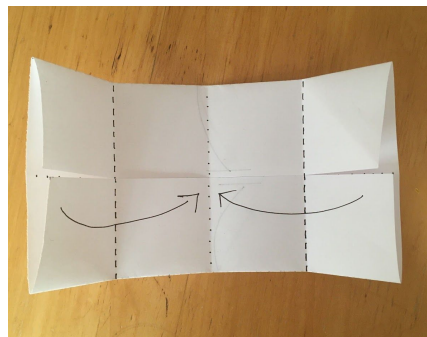


Instructions

- Write a letter with [a secret message](#). You might want to try using invisible ink or a cipher to make your message even more secure.
- Fold the letter so that the two side edges meet at the middle. Make another fold so that the top and bottom edges meet at the middle. Alternatively, you can insert the letter into an envelope.

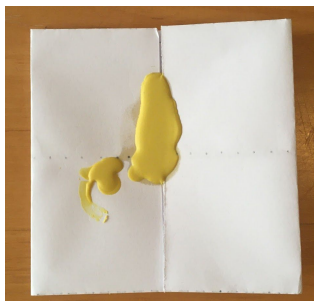


Step 1 to fold the letter



Step 2 to fold the letter

- Remove the paper wrapping from a crayon and break it into little pieces. Place the crayon pieces into your heat proof, waterproof container. One crayon is enough to make one wax seal.
- Ask an adult to help you melt the crayon pieces. They can either melt the crayon by placing the container over boiling water or by heating it with a hair dryer.
- Pour the melted crayon wax onto the middle of the letter or the envelope, and wait several minutes for it to harden.
- If you want to use a stamp to decorate the wax seal, you can dip the stamp in water and press it onto the blob of melted crayon wax. Leave it in on top of the wax, and once the wax has hardened, carefully remove the stamp.



Want to explore more?

- Tamper evident technology lets you know if someone has been trying to get into your things. Other examples of tamper evident technology include foil seals on medicine bottles, safety buttons on food jars, and ink tags in clothes in stores.
- You can go to [the Melted Crayons web page from Crayola](#) for ideas on other things to do with melted crayons.

What will you learn today?

Send a photo of your project to mycreation@skokielibrary.info and we may feature it on social media.