



Cereal Box = Treasure Box

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CEREAL BOX = TREASURE BOX



Kia ora all,

Welcome back for another adventure. This time I am going to revisit my love of collage using the bright colours from cereal boxes, and make and decorate an entirely new special art box - reinventing what might be rubbish into something to keep or give as a gift.

Materials you will need:

- a variety of cardboard boxes from cereal or other food packaging. Ones with bright shiny colours will be particularly useful.
- scissors
- pencil
- glue pva or glue stick
- old material scraps (just a little bit, could be from old clothing)
- ruler if you have one but not absolutely necessary
- crayon if you have one but not absolutely necessary
- laundry pegs x4. These are used to hold things together while the glue is drying and can go back to the washing line once they have done their job

Let's Begin!

Firstly we need to create our very own box.

Open up one of your cereal boxes and cut out a square that is roughly 9cm on each side. Use the straight edge of your box to cut two of the sides and then try using your eyes to match the other two sides up to create an even square, something like this:

Jean Stewart (2020).

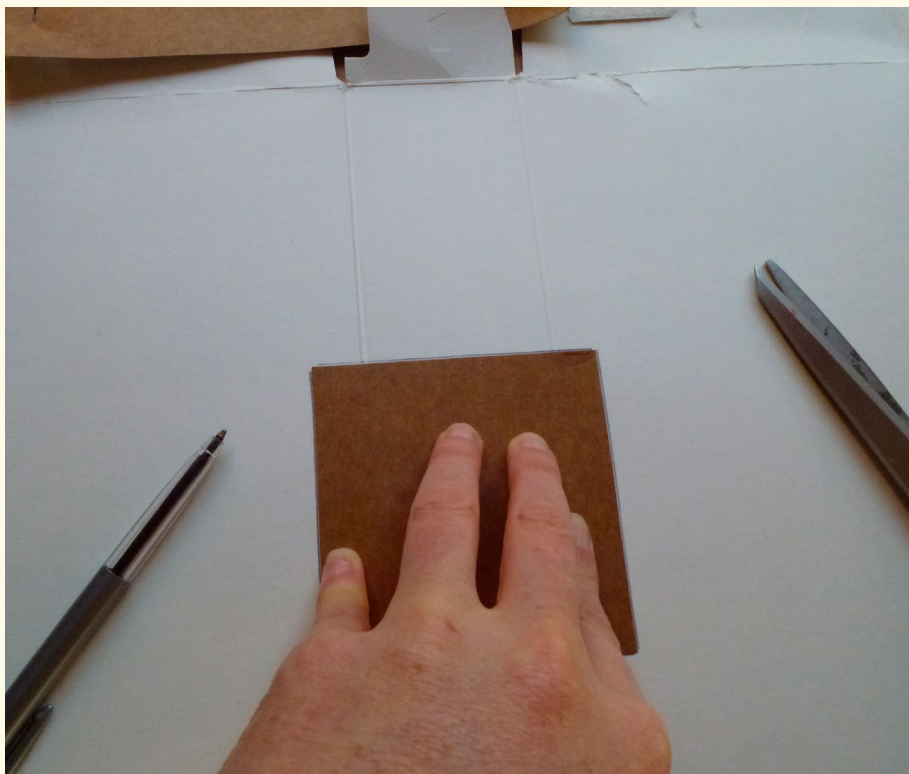


Then use this square as a template to draw around to map out your box shape.

Find a large cereal box and open it up.

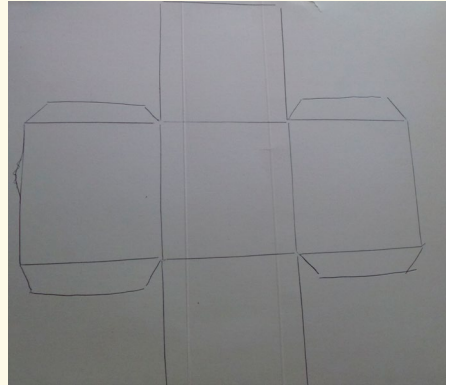
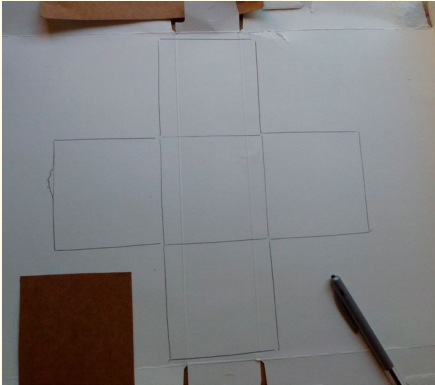
Place your template square right in the middle, draw around it as you see in the photo

Jean Stewart (2020).

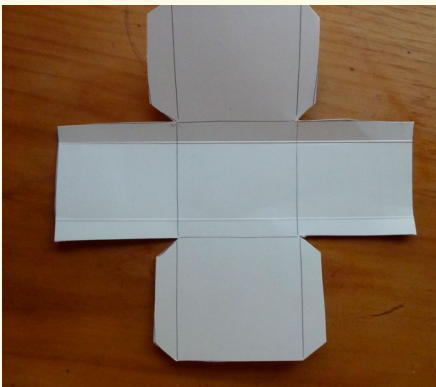


Move the template around placing it along each edge of your original square until you have made a shape that like that shown below. See how I accidentally drew around my finger on the left hand side making a bumpy line? If you make a mistake don't worry just make sure you know which lines are the ones you want to be guided by when it comes to cutting it out. Next draw some tabs onto the edges of two of your squares, as in the second photo.

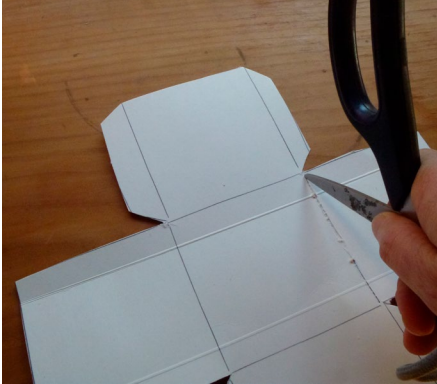
Jean Stewart (2020).



Now it's time to cut. Carefully cut around the outline of your shape.



Now that you have your box in 2D we need to fold and glue the tabs to the sides. Scratching with your scissors along your fold lines can help to get a clean fold. Remember that we want the plain cardboard side of the box to be on the outside and the colourful advertising on the inside.



Use the pegs to hold the sides in place while the glue dries

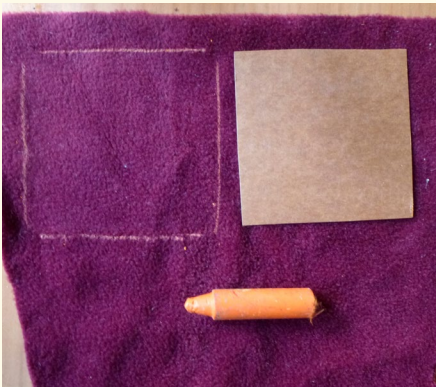


Lining the inside of your box (an optional step)

Once the glue is dry if you want to you can line the inside of your box. Lining the inside of the box will cover over all the advertising writing and make the inside less distracting. Material works well to do this but If you can't find any material to use you could always use paper or plain cardboard from another box.

To line it with material find a spare piece of fabric perhaps an old pair of pants that have a hole in the knee or an old tea towel. Using your original cardboard square and with a crayon draw around the square and cut out five squares of fabric.

Jean Stewart (2020).



Then glue them onto the four inside walls of your box. Glue the final material square onto your original cut out cardboard square. This can then be pushed into the bottom of your box to create the inside floor.

Jean Stewart (2020).



You may need to use the pegs again to hold the material in place while the glue dries.

Decorating your box

So now that you have your box structure and lining we come to the fun/creative part, decoration. We have used a cereal box to make the base structure, now to decorate we are again going to turn to our cereal boxes and any other cardboard packaging we can find. The bright shiny cardboard that cereal boxes and other food boxes are made from are the perfect material to make your new box very bright shiny and special.

We are going to be collaging using small squares of colour and gluing them down to build up our pictures. A good way to start is to cut up little piles of coloured squares from the variety of packaging you have. From a Weetbix box for example I can get a kikorangi pile, a māwhero pile and a maroon pile. From the taco's box I can make a healthy pile of kowhai. Keeping them in piles of colour will be useful to choose from later.

Jean Stewart (2020).



The great thing about creating a box is that it has four different sides to decorate. My challenge for you is to find a theme for your box something that has four parts or something that comes in fours. What can you think of?

Perhaps the four seasons?

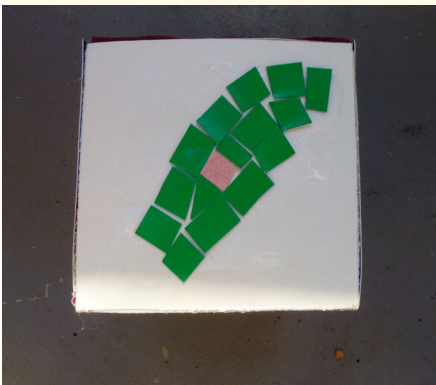
Or the four elements?

Perhaps you want to do something more abstract using patterns and shapes?

I have chosen the lifecycle of the monarch caterpillar and the four stages that it metamorphoses through.

Beginning with the egg on a leaf stage I start to build up my image gluing down squares of cardboard as I go. Try to get your pieces of colour as close together as you can but a little bit of white showing through is OK. It makes me think of mosaic art. Have you seen that kind of thing before where little bits of ceramics are set in concrete or plaster to create pictures?

Jean Stewart (2020).



As I go I choose background colours that will contrast well with my central image to make it stand out .I choose kowhai as a background for my green leaf and fill in the space around my leaf trying to block out as much white with colour as I can. I am also aiming to have different colours on each side of my box.

Next comes the caterpillar.

Jean Stewart (2020).



Then I'm guessing you know the rest of the story? The chrysalis and then the....

Jean Stewart (2020).



How does your box look?

Are you finished or do you want to do a bit more?

For those of you that want an added challenge can you think of a nice way to finish off the edge around the top of the box? My idea was to make a plait out of wool and glue it on.

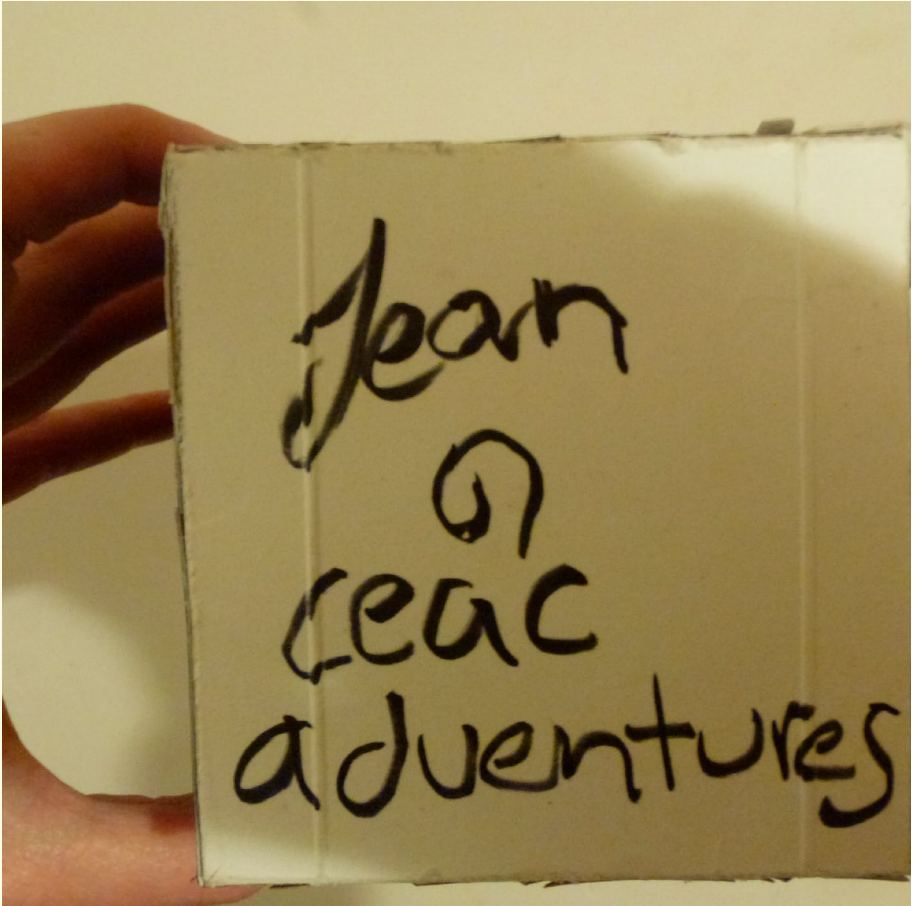
I bet you can come up with a cool idea of your own!

Jean Stewart (2020).



Now the very VERY last thing is to add your artists mark to the bottom of the box. Special crafted objects will often have the artist's signature on the underside of the object. This tells us that it is indeed a unique piece of art.

Jean Stewart (2020).



Jean Stewart (2020).



Hope you enjoyed this latest adventure and your new box!

Ka kite

See you next time

Jean



Jean is a member of the CEAC education team. She is also a practicing artist. She lives with her two boys and partner. Every morning she gets up and jumps on the trampoline to wake herself up.



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