Decorative paper can be used for book covers, wall decorations, wrapping paper, note cards, etc. There are many ways to decorate paper, including fold and dye, wax resist, cut outs, applique, paint, and prints. This information concerns fold and dye.

Fold and dye papers can be pleasing when colors and shapes are used creatively. Various papers can be used, but a tough and absorbent one is best. Newspaper and paper towels are good for practice. Japanese rice paper is excellent for fold and dye techniques.

Paper can be folded in many ways. One simple way uses accordion pleats. Accordion folded paper can then be folded diagonally. See Sketch 1.

Sketch 1

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A pattern is made by dipping edges and corners of folded paper into dye solutions. Colors will be more intense on edges and shading of colors appear as the dye spreads into folds. The paper may need to be unfolded and refolded and dipped into the same color dye in order for dyes to penetrate folds. See Sketch 2.

![Sketch 2](image)

More than one color can be dyed on the same paper to create different designs. Fold paper and dip into dye; unfold; refold; and dip into other colors until desired effect is obtained. The paper may be left wet or dried between dippings into separate dye colors. Try both methods and see which is preferred.

**MATERIALS**

1. Papers - Japanese rice paper (student quality) and newsprint.
2. Dyes - food coloring, inks, liquid dye (diluted), water colors and thinned tempera paints.

**PROCEDURE**

1. Fold paper and wet thoroughly.
2. Dry by placing between newspapers and pressing with hands or feet.
3. Dip into dye solution.
4. Drain and unfold.
5. Place on newspaper to dry. Dry with an iron if dyed paper is protected by one sheet of newspaper. A hand held hair dryer can be used.
6. Refold and redip if desired.