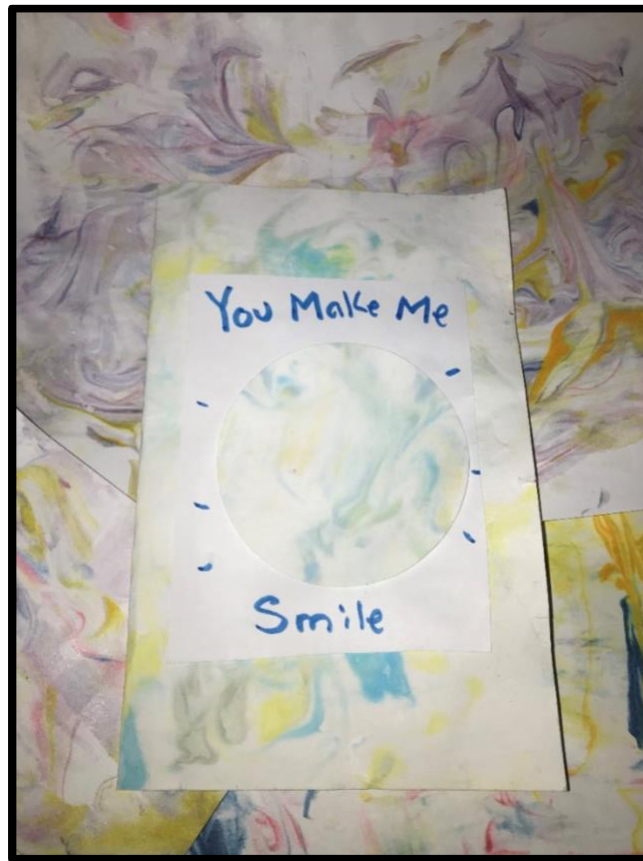


**El Pueblo Historical Monument  
*Marbled Paper Greeting Card*  
At-Home Workshop**

**El Pueblo<sup>™</sup>  
de  
Los Angeles**



This workshop is fun for the whole family and can be created with things you probably already have at home! Create a special greeting card for any occasion and have fun creating one-of-a-kind designs.

The directions below provide the directions for creating one greeting card, but you will have so much fun you will want to marble all the paper in your house!

### **Historic Facts About Marble Paper**

- Marbling originated in Japan and was originally called Suminagashi or “ink floating.”
- Historically marbled paper has been used on important documents. The unique patterns made sure that no one could make unapproved copies of the documents.
- Centuries later, marbling techniques became popular in Italy, France, and other countries in Europe. Each country had their own special secret way of marbling and gave them all names related to their country like Italian Heir Vein.
- Marbled paper was very popular for binding books together
- The special technique to create marble patterns was kept a secret and very few people knew about it until Charles Woolnough published a book called “The Art of Marbling in 1853.”

### **Historic Facts About Greeting Cards**

- The earliest greeting cards are traced back to China and Egypt. In China cards were given as part of wishing others a Happy New Year. In Egypt they wrote a message of good luck for the new year on papyrus.
- They became popular in Europe in the 1400’s when handmade cards were sold for Valentine’s Day
- Throughout history, Valentines, Christmas, and New Year’s cards have been the most popular to give to others
- The invention of the postal system in the 1800’s and later the postal stamp made greeting cards the phenomenon they are today because it made it so easy to send messages of caring and joy to others

### **Materials:**

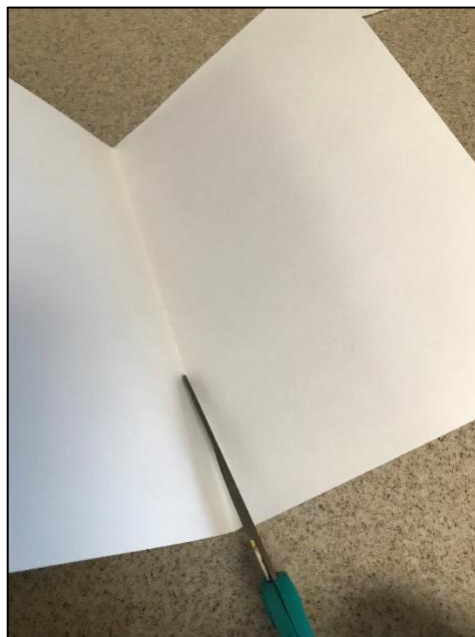
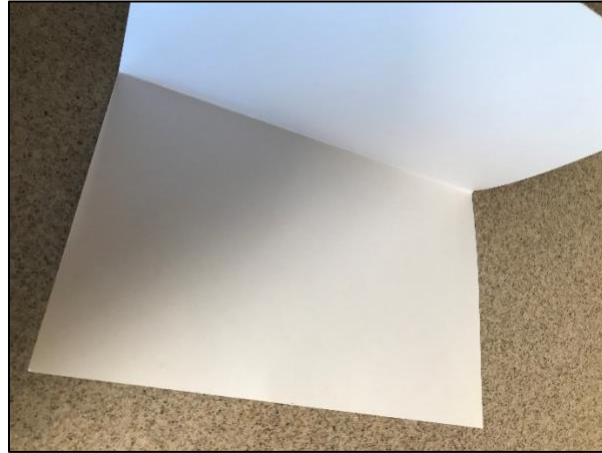
- Shaving Foam
- Plastic Tub, Cookie Sheet or Baking Dish (Larger than a piece of paper)
- Food Coloring
- Scissors
- (2) Pieces of White Cardstock
- Crayons, Coloring Pencils, or Markers
- Water
- A Reusable spoon
- A Toothpick
- (3-5) cups (Depending on how many different colors you want to use)
- A Small Piece of Cardboard
- Measuring Cups
- Clean & Empty Handwashing Soap Dispenser

- Tablecloth or Easy to Clean Work Surface
- Towel or Washcloth
- Glue or Tape

### **Steps/Instructions:**

**Step One:** Collect all of your materials in one place

**Step Two:** Fold one piece of cardstock in half and then cut along the seam



### **Step Three:**

- Take one of the half sheets of cardstock and then fold it in half and cut along the seam. Repeat this with the other half sheet of paper. You should now have (4) quarter sheets of paper and one full sheet.

#### Step Four:

- Prepare your colors by placing 1/8 of a cup of water in each cup. Then place 10-15 drops of food coloring.
- **Tip:** Remember the color wheel and remember when combining colors to use more of the lighter color than the darker color! \*\*\*
  - Red + Yellow= Orange
  - Red + Blue = Purple
  - Blue + Yellow = Green
- Stir the food coloring into the water with a reusable spoon.
- **Tip:** Remember to rinse the spoon before using it too stir a different color to prevent accidentally adding the wrong color to the wrong cup!
- **Notes:** Step Four continues below.



**Step Four (continued):** Repeat until you have 3-5 colors

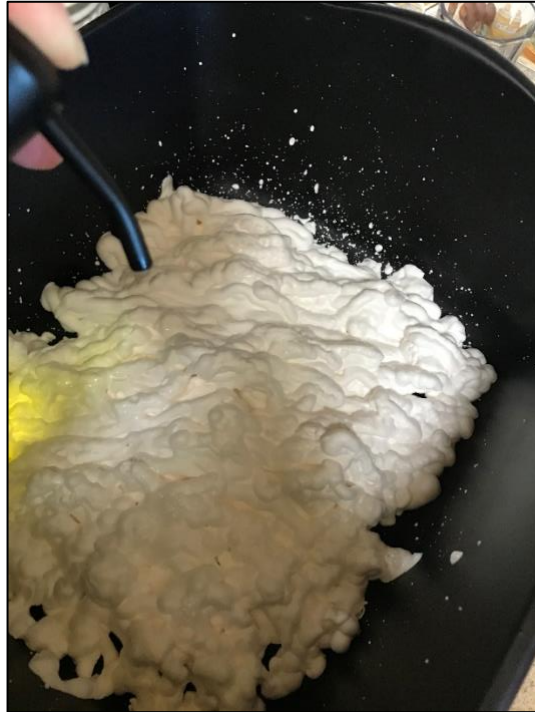


**Step Five:**

- Prep your foam tub by creating an even layer of shaving foam about 1" thick. The goal isn't to fill it because you might need to add more foam later.
- **Tip:** Remember to shake the can a lot and you may have to hold the tub at an angle for the foam to spray evenly.

**Step Six:**

- Rinse your hands if needed. Pour your first color into the soap dispenser making sure the water reaches the pumping mechanism.
- Spray the first color in a lot of different spots all over the surface.
- Repeat with all the other colors.



**Step Seven:** Use a toothpick to create swirls from all the spots.



**Step Eight:**

- Lightly place your paper on top of the foam.
- Gently press the paper into the foam with your fingertips so that color gets on most of the surface. It is okay if color doesn't hit every part of the paper. This will be fixed in the next step!
- **Tip:** Don't press too hard or your paper will get too soggy.



**Step Nine:**

- Gently pick up paper from the corners and lay it on a flat surface.
- Use the small piece of cardboard to carefully sweep the excess foam off of the paper
- Use the towel to wipe the extra foam off the cardboard in between wipes
- You should now see some marbling!



**Step Ten:** Repeat steps eight and nine with (2) of the quarter size pieces of paper

**Step Eleven:** Lay all (3) sheets on a flat surface to dry

**Step Twelve:** Once they are dry take the full size piece of cardstock and fold it in half

**Step Thirteen:** Cut the (2) quarter size pieces of decorated cardstock and cut into the desired shapes: a star, a circle, a heart, etc.



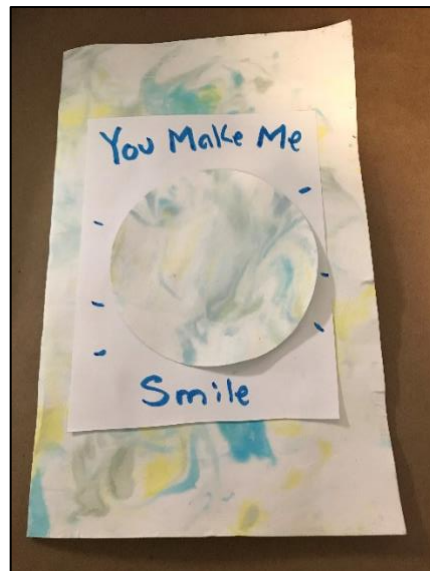


**Step Fourteen:**

- Decide which side of the folded full-size piece of cardstock you want to be the front of your greeting card.
- Glue (or tape) one of the blank quarter size pieces of cardboard to that side
- Glue or tape your wonderful cut out shapes onto the front of the card wherever you like!



**Step Fifteen:** Use your crayons to add additional decorations and write a wonderful message for someone on the front of the greet card and on the inside!



*Congratulations! You have completed a beautiful piece of art that is unique and wonderful! Stay safe and we hope to see you on your next visit to El Pueblo Historical Monument soon!*