

Elisabet Ney Museum Curriculum

Topic: A Parade of Stars



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Introduction

Welcome to the Elisabet Ney Museum's interactive curriculum, designed specifically for 3rd-4th grade classrooms. Through these lesson plans, students will learn more about Elisabet Ney, the German-American sculptor, and many of her famous subjects. This guide provides activities connecting to social studies, language arts, science, math and art. Following this introduction, you will find a curriculum outline, a sample lesson plan with detailed instructions and additional materials including student activity worksheets.

In this lesson plan, students will begin by learning more about Jacob Grimm, one of Ney's subjects, in the **Grimm Brothers' Fairy Tale Activity**. Students will explore common literary themes by reading some of Grimm's works and then creating their own fairy tale. Pair this activity with the **Fairy Tale Bookmaking** art project, and have students transcribe their stories into handmade books! Next, students will learn more about famous Texans Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston through the **Texas Leaders Compare and Contrast** activity. The class will also get to explore basic chemistry principles and identify mixtures and solutions through the **Chemistry Basics Experiment**. Finally, students will learn about King Ludwig II of Bavaria and his ornate castles in the **Castle Creation Project**. Using basic principles of architecture and mathematics, students will create their own small-scale castles.

For Student Museum Tours:

The Elisabet Ney Museum is open to the public Wednesday-Sunday, noon to 5:00 pm. Class visits may be scheduled earlier in the day as well. For more information on our field trip program, or to set up a class trip, please call 512-974-1628.

Curriculum Outline

Theme: A Parade of Stars

Grade Level: 4th grade

Guiding Questions

- Who were some of Elisabet Ney's most prominent subjects and what were they known for?
- What are some common themes and elements in fairy tales, such as those written by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm?
- What contributions did Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin make to Texas history?
- What are the basic properties of matter?

English Language Arts and Reading Connections

Students will read several fairytales written by the Brothers Grimm and identify common plot elements and themes. Students will then try their hands at writing fairy tales, incorporating these same elements.

TEKS: 3A; 6A; 6B; 15A; 15E; 16A

Social Studies/History Connections

Students will learn more about Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin, completing an activity sheet to compare and contrast the two men.

TEKS: 3C

Science Connections

Students will explore basic chemistry principles, identifying substances as mixtures or solutions through an interactive, hands-on lab.

TEKS: 5A;5B

Math Connections

After learning about King Ludwig II and his magnificent castles, students will have the opportunity to construct their own small-scale castles using geometric shapes.

TEKS: 6D

Art Connections

Using their fairy tales from the ELAR activity, students will create their own paper books, decorating them with illustrations.

TEKS: 2B; 2C

Field Trip Ideas

Visit the studio of an artist currently working in Austin during [EAST](#) or [WEST](#)

Career Connections

Art supply retailers, gallery workers, foundry workers, art dealers, commercial designer/engineer, tool fabricator

Technology

Students can design a flowchart illustrating the sculpting process in Microsoft Word

Vocabulary

Bust

Portrait

Theme

Protagonist

Antagonist

Climax

Compare

Contrast

Mass

Density

Solution

Mixture

Evaluation and Assessment

Students will identify common themes in classic fairy tales and incorporate these elements into their own creative stories.

Students will learn about the contributions of Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin and compare the two men.

Students will explore physical properties including mass and density, distinguishing between mixtures and solutions.

Students will construct castles out of provided geometric shapes.

Students will create their own booklets to illustrate and print their fairy tales in.

Sample Lesson Plan

Student Outcomes

Students will learn more about the significant historical figures that Elisabet Ney sculpted during her career.

Objectives

Students will identify common themes in classic fairy tales and incorporate these elements into their own creative stories.

Students will learn about the contributions of Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin and compare the two men.

Students will explore physical properties including mass and density, distinguishing between mixtures and solutions.

Students will construct castles out of provided geometric shapes.

Students will create their own booklets to illustrate and print their fairy tales in.

Guiding Questions

- Who were some of Elisabet Ney's most prominent subjects and what were they known for?
- What are some common themes and elements in fairy tales, such as those written by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm?
- What contributions did Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin make to Texas history?
- What are the basic properties of matter?

Vocabulary

Bust
Portrait
Theme
Protagonist
Antagonist
Climax
Compare
Contrast
Mass
Density
Solution
Mixture

Procedures

Grimm Brothers' Fairy Tale Activity: In this activity, students will read some of Grimm's fairy tales and discuss basic plot elements and themes. Next, students should create their own fairy tale. Students should create a first draft of their fairy tales and then create a final copy in the form of a fun paper book in the **Fairy Tale Book-Making Project**.

Texas Leaders Compare & Contrast: Students will read short passages about Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin and then have a class discussion about their contributions. Complete the activity with the attached compare and contrast worksheet.

Chemistry Basics Lab: In this activity, students will explore basic properties of matter, including mass, weight and density. They will also learn more about mixtures and solutions. Begin with a brief discussion and review of basic chemistry vocabulary terms using the attached worksheet. Next, have students examine a variety of mixtures and solutions through the hands-on lab.

King Ludwig's Castle Creation Activity: Students will learn more about King Ludwig II of Bavaria, one of Ney's friends and subjects. Ludwig was well known for his ornately decorated castles. In this activity, students will learn more about basic architectural structures and then create their own small castles.

Fairy Tale Book-Making Project: Using the attached instruction sheet, have students create their own paper books to transcribe their fairytales in. They may illustrate their books and create an engaging cover image.

Technology Needed

Microsoft Word, web browser

Evaluation

Students will identify common themes in classic fairy tales and incorporate these elements into their own creative stories.

Students will learn about the contributions of Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin and compare the two men.

Students will explore physical properties including mass and density, distinguishing between mixtures and solutions.

Students will construct castles out of provided geometric shapes.

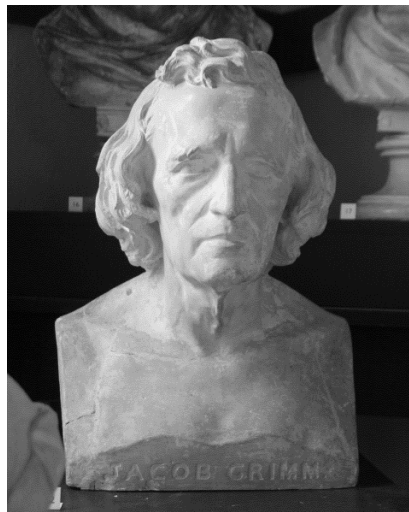
Students will create their own booklets to illustrate and print their fairy tales in.

Grimm Fairy Tale Activity

English Language Arts and Reading Activity Guide

TEKS: 3A; 6A; 6B; 15A; 15E; 16A

Elisabet Ney was known for sculpting “the great men of the world.” Among her subjects was Jacob Grimm, a literary figure who lived during the 18th and 19th centuries. Below is an image of Ney’s bust of Grimm. He and his brother, Wilhelm, were well known for creating popular fairy tales such as *Rapunzel* and *Hansel and Gretel*.



In this activity, students will read some of Grimm’s fairy tales and identify basic plot elements and themes. Have students use the attached activity sheet to map out the plot of each fairy tale. The activity sheet will allow students to fill out information about each story, including the setting, main characters, rising action, climax and resolution. The class might also complete the included Literary Vocabulary Worksheet to review vocabulary words that will be used in this activity.

Suggested fairytales include:

- Hansel and Gretel: <https://germannstories.vcu.edu/grimm/haenseleng.html>
- Little Red Riding Hood: <https://germanstories.vcu.edu/grimm/redridinghood.html>
- Sleeping Beauty: <https://germanstories.vcu.edu/grimm/dorneng.html>

Next, students will create their own fairytale, employing similar themes and elements. Begin by having students use scratch paper to brainstorm. They may also use the provided template or the plot map to plan the setting, characters, conflict and resolution of their stories. After this, have students write drafts of their fairy tales. Finally, after students have read over their drafts and made the necessary revisions, each student may create a final copy in the form of a fun paper book. Further instructions for this project are available in the **Fairy Tale Book-Making Project** section of this curriculum guide. Encourage students to illustrate their stories and create enticing cover pages.

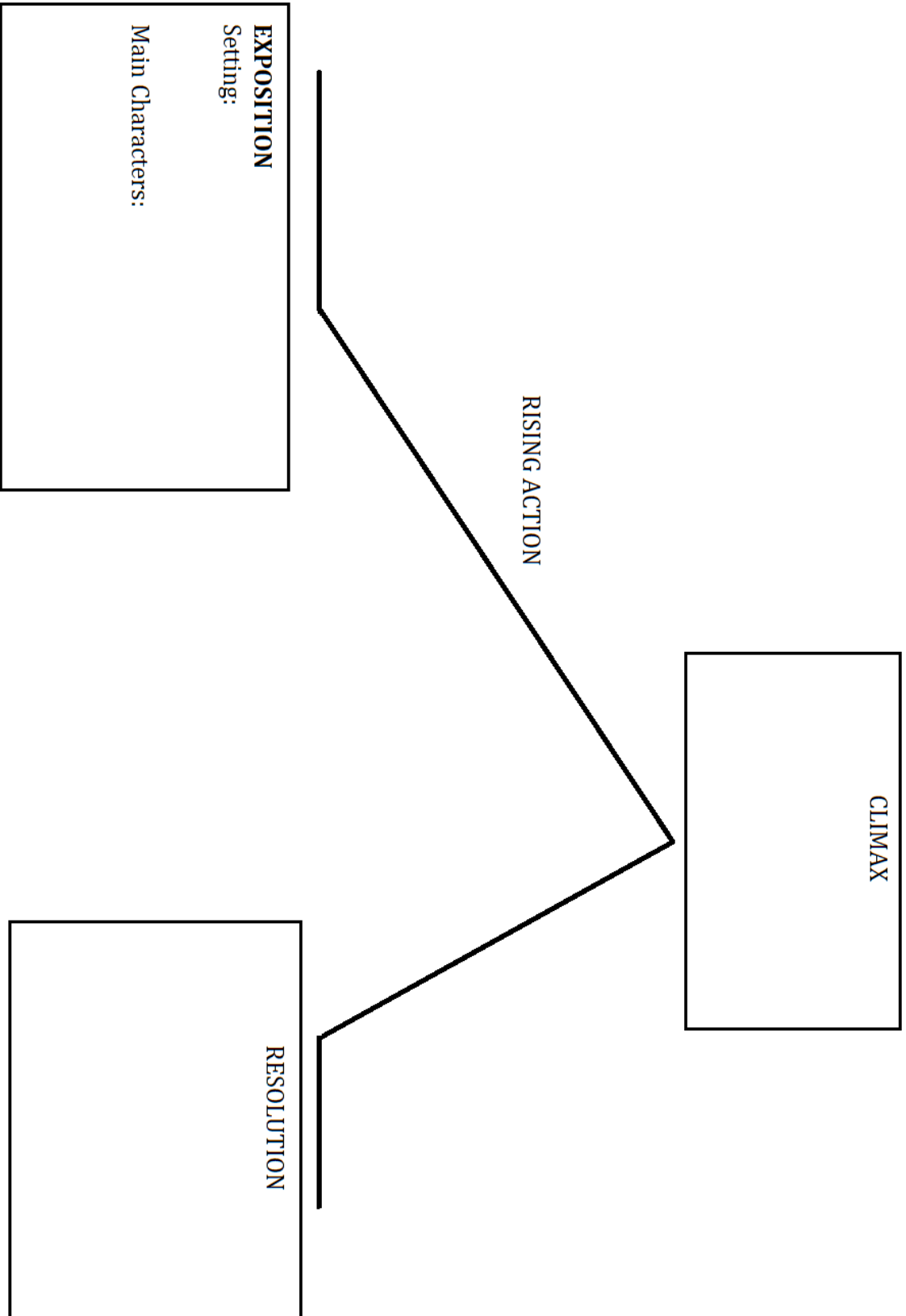
Name:

Literary Vocabulary Worksheet

Match the word with its definition.

Protagonist	The series of events in a novel or play
Antagonist	The character that opposes the protagonist
Setting	The most suspenseful point of the story
Climax	The main character
Plot	The main problem in a novel or play
Conflict	The events in a story that build up to the climax
Rising Action	The end of the story where the conflict is solved
Resolution	The time and place that a story is set

NAME:



Fairy Tale Planning Sheet

SETTING

Time:

Place:

MAIN CHARACTERS:

Protagonists:

Antagonists:

PLOT

Conflict:

Series of Events:

Climax:

Resolution:

Texas Leaders Compare & Contrast

Social Studies Activity Guide

TEKS: 3C

Elisabet Ney's portraits of Austin and Houston are some of her most well-known works and can be seen in the Texas State Capitol and the National Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C. Because both men were already deceased at this time, Elisabet Ney had to consult old engravings and images along with descriptions from relatives as she sculpted the two Texans. In this activity, students will learn more about these two men and their contributions to Texas history. Begin with a brief lesson about Austin and Houston, using the attached readings. Students may read the passages independently or as a class. Following this, lead a discussion on the two men's lives and contributions. Guiding questions might include:

- How did Stephen F. Austin contribute to the development of Anglo-American colonies in Texas?
- What led Stephen F. Austin to support the independence of Texas?
- What events led to the end of Sam Houston's political career in Texas?

After discussing the two historical figures, have students complete the attached worksheet. Students will use the Venn diagram to compare and contrast Austin and Houston.

Possible answers might include:

- Austin: led the settlement of Texas, empresario of Texas, first Secretary of State,
- Houston: first president of Texas, governor of Texas, led troops in the Battle of San Jacinto
- Both: born in Virginia, born in 1793, ran for President of Texas, fought in Texas War for Independence

Stephen F. Austin Biography

(1793-1836)



Stephen F. Austin is often called “The Father of Texas” because of his role in establishing the first Anglo-American colonies in the Mexican province of Tejas. However, Austin did not begin his work in Texas until 1821. Austin spent his early years in Virginia, where he was born in 1793. The Austin family later moved to Missouri, and Stephen went on to attend schools in Connecticut and Kentucky.

Stephen F. Austin’s involvement in colonizing Texas began with his father, Moses Austin. Moses planned to travel to San Antonio to obtain land to settle 300 families in Texas. However, Moses passed away before he could complete his journey. Stephen F. Austin decided to fulfill his father’s mission and traveled to San Antonio in 1821. There, he began the process of securing land for his planned colonies. However, Austin encountered some obstacles. The newly independent Mexican government did not want to honor the agreement that Moses Austin had made with the Spanish government. Stephen F. Austin traveled to Mexico City and was eventually able to get permission.

As the new *empresario*, Austin had to represent the American colonists’ interests while upholding the Mexican government’s authority. However, when colonists began to rebel against the Mexican government in 1835, sparking the Texas War for Independence, Austin ultimately supported the American colonists, fighting on their behalf and representing Texan interests in Washington, D.C. When Texas became independent in 1836, Austin campaigned to be the republic’s first president, but he was defeated by Sam Houston. Austin was named Secretary of State, however, and served in this position until his death in 1836.

Sam Houston Biography

(1793-1863)



Born in Virginia in 1793, Sam Houston had many careers throughout his life. Following in the footsteps of his father, a veteran of the Revolutionary War, Houston joined the military and served under Andrew Jackson during the War of 1812. Upon his return home to Tennessee, Houston began a lifelong career in politics. After studying law, he was elected as a district attorney in Nashville and later served as a congressman and governor of Tennessee.

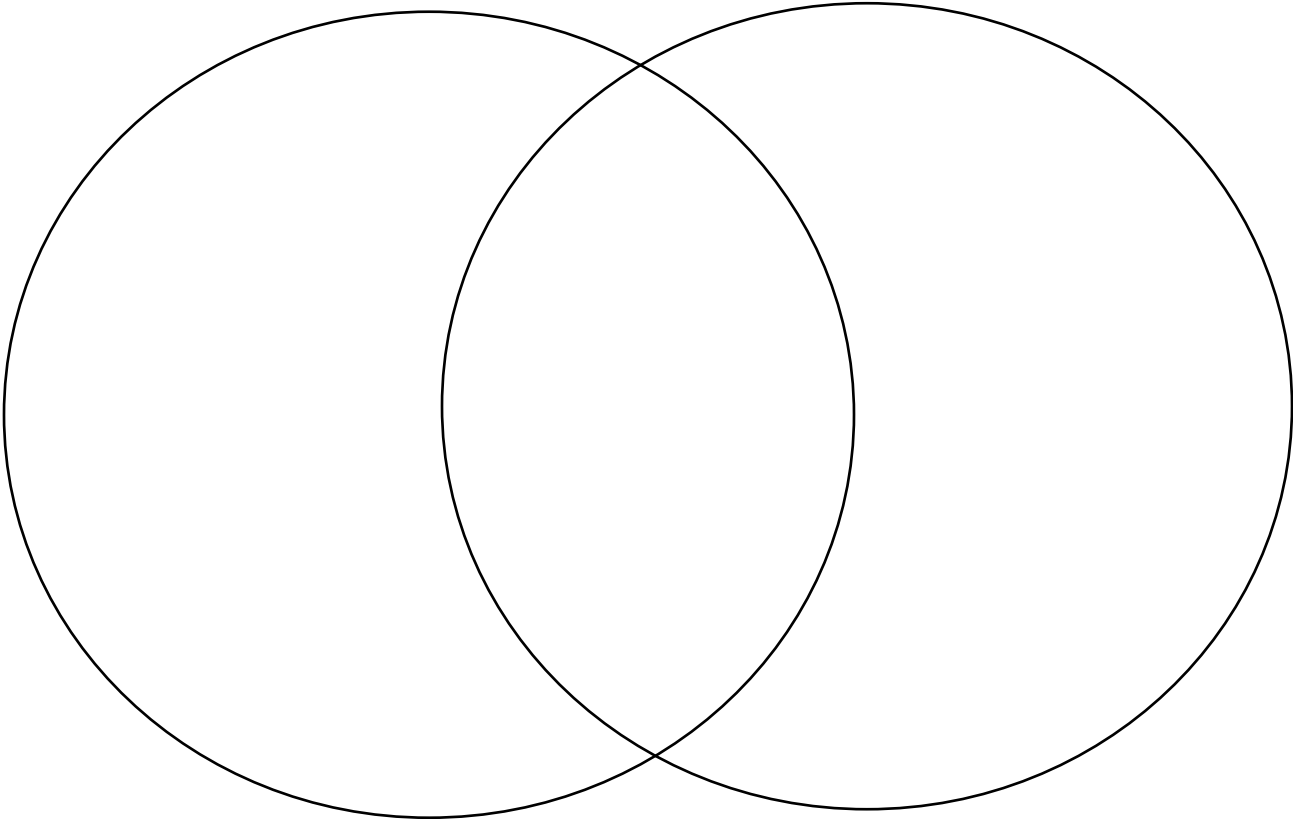
Houston's involvement in Texas began when he moved to the Mexican territory in 1832. Houston fully supported Texan independence and commanded troops during the Texas War for Independence. A sharp military leader, Houston led Texas to victory at San Jacinto in 1836. Following this triumph, Houston was elected president of the new republic. When Texas was annexed to the United States in 1845, Houston served as a senator and governor. However, following the secession of Texas in 1861, Houston was discharged from office. Unwilling to support the state's secession or pledge allegiance to the Confederate States, Houston retired from politics, residing at his home in Huntsville, Texas, until his death in 1863.

Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin

Compare and Contrast

AUSTIN

HOUSTON



Chemistry Basics Activity

Science Activity Guide

TEKS: 5A; 5B

Another one of Elisabet Ney's famous subjects was Friedrich Wöhler, a German chemist. Ney's bust of Wöhler is pictured here. Introduce this activity by discussing the job of a chemist. Some guiding questions might include:

- What does a chemist study?
- Why are chemists important to society?
- What is "chemistry"?

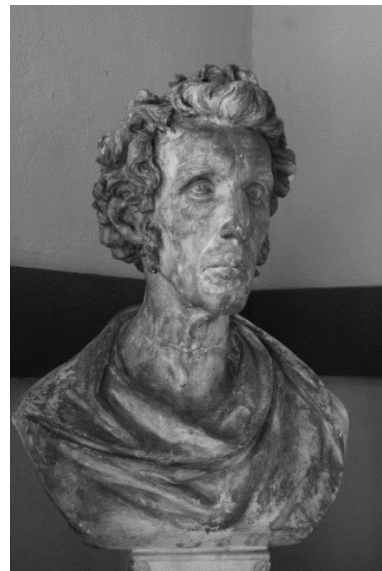
After this, use the handout below to introduce students to some basic chemistry principles and vocabulary. Discuss the meaning of "matter" and then introduce different states of matter, using examples. The provided vocabulary worksheet may be used as a review of the covered terms.

Once students have a better understanding of the properties of matter, conduct an interactive lab to investigate mixtures and solutions. Prepare ahead of time by collecting several jars to put the mixtures and solutions in. Label each jar with a number.

Suggested Mixtures: sand and water, soil and rocks, trail mix

Suggested Solutions: sugar and water, salt and water, coffee or tea

Allow students to investigate each substance and decide whether it is a mixture or solution. They may record their results on the provided lab worksheet.



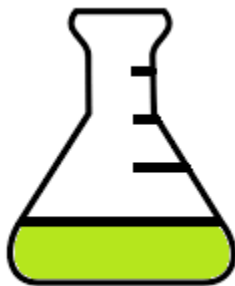
Chemistry Basics

What is matter?

Matter is anything that takes up space and has **mass**. Everything around you is made up of matter. Matter can come in different states as well. The three main **states of matter** are:

- **Solids:** Solids are hard, like stones, and hold their shapes unlike liquids and gases. Solids hold their shapes because the molecules are tightly packed together. Examples of solids include gemstones, ice, and wood.
- **Liquids:** Liquids fill the shape of their container and include substances like water, cooking oil and juice.
- **Gases:** The molecules in gases are even more spread out than in solids and liquids. Gases will fill a container of any size or shape, such as the room you are in right now. Some examples of gases include helium and oxygen.

Matter has many different properties, including temperature, mass, volume, and the ability to sink or float. **Mass** is the amount of matter in something and can be measured using a scale. **Volume** is the measure of how much space an object takes up. **Density** tells is how tightly packed, or dense, an object is.



Name:

Chemistry Basics Worksheet

Match the term with its definition.

	A substance that has mass and takes up space
Mixture	The amount of matter in something
Solution	The product when two or more substances are combined, but no chemical reaction occurs
Mass	The amount of space that an object or substance takes up
Density	The product when two or more substances are combined, and one dissolves into the other
Weight	A measure of how tightly packed or concentrated something is
Volume	The measure of the force of gravity on an object
Matter	

Name:

Mixture or Solution?

SUBSTANCE	MIXTURE OR SOLUTION?

Castle Construction Project

Math Activity Guide

TEKS: 6D

One of Elisabeth Ney's most influential patrons was King Ludwig II of Bavaria. Well known as a supporter of the arts, Ludwig owned many elaborate castles, including the one pictured below. This activity will incorporate mathematics by allowing students to explore architectural and geometric principles as they design their own small-scale castles.



Introduce the activity with a brief background of King Ludwig II. Using the provided images of Ludwig's castle, have students identify different geometric shapes that are present in the structure. Discuss the function of different forms. For instance, why would a cylinder make a good turret? After identifying a variety of shapes and figures, including cones, cylinders, pyramids and prisms, allow students to create their own castles using similar figures. Using the provided geometric figure templates, allow students to use different shapes and figures to construct their castles out of. Each castle will be unique. As a class, discuss why students chose certain pieces and what function they serve in their castle. Did some shapes offer more stability? Were some figures more decorative?

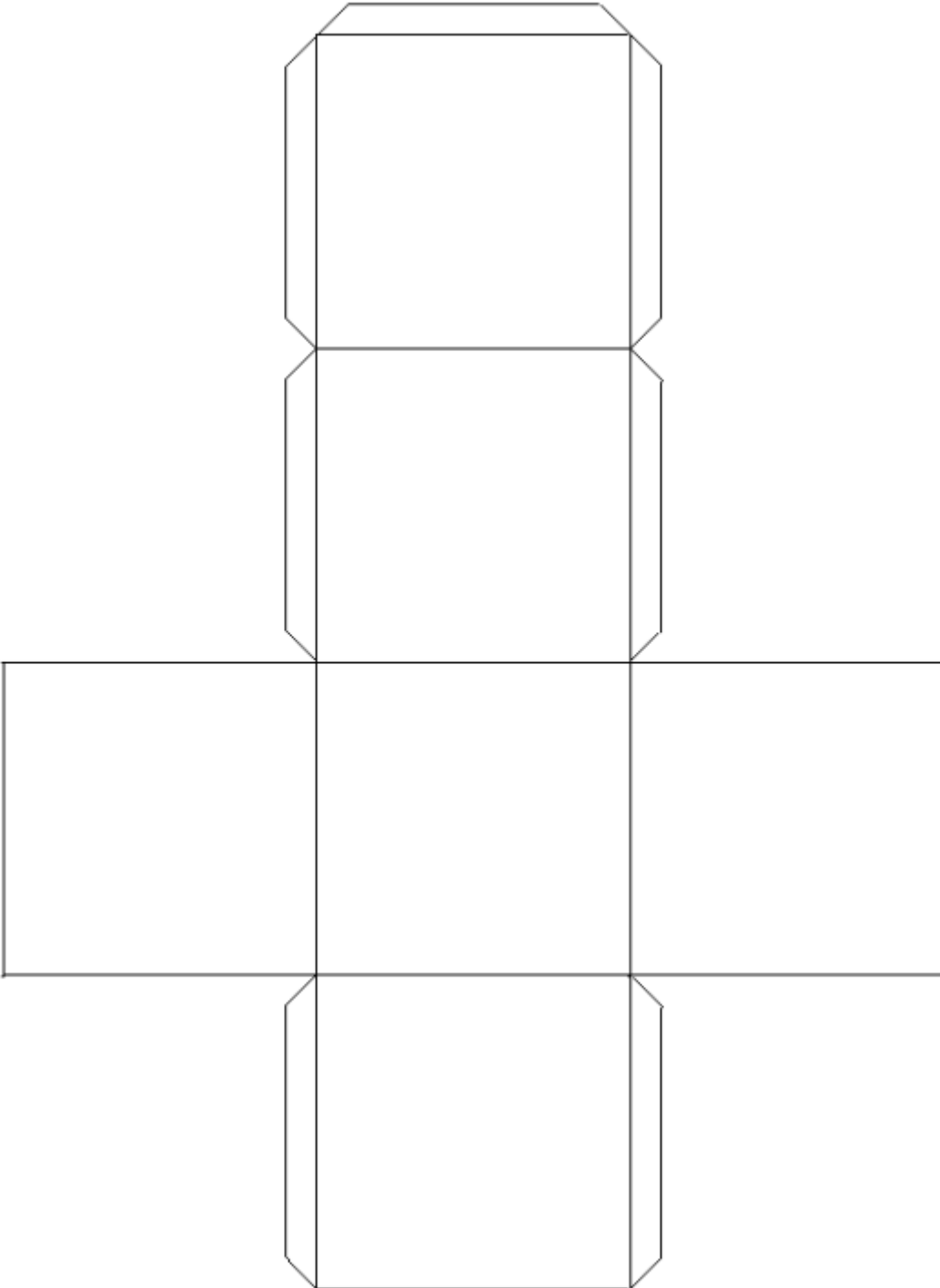
This activity may also be differentiated for different skill levels and age groups. Younger groups might use the attached template to construct a paper castle out of provided pieces. This template may also be used as an art activity for all ages. Students might also use wooden blocks or geometry models to construct castles.

Neuschwanstein Castle, Bavaria

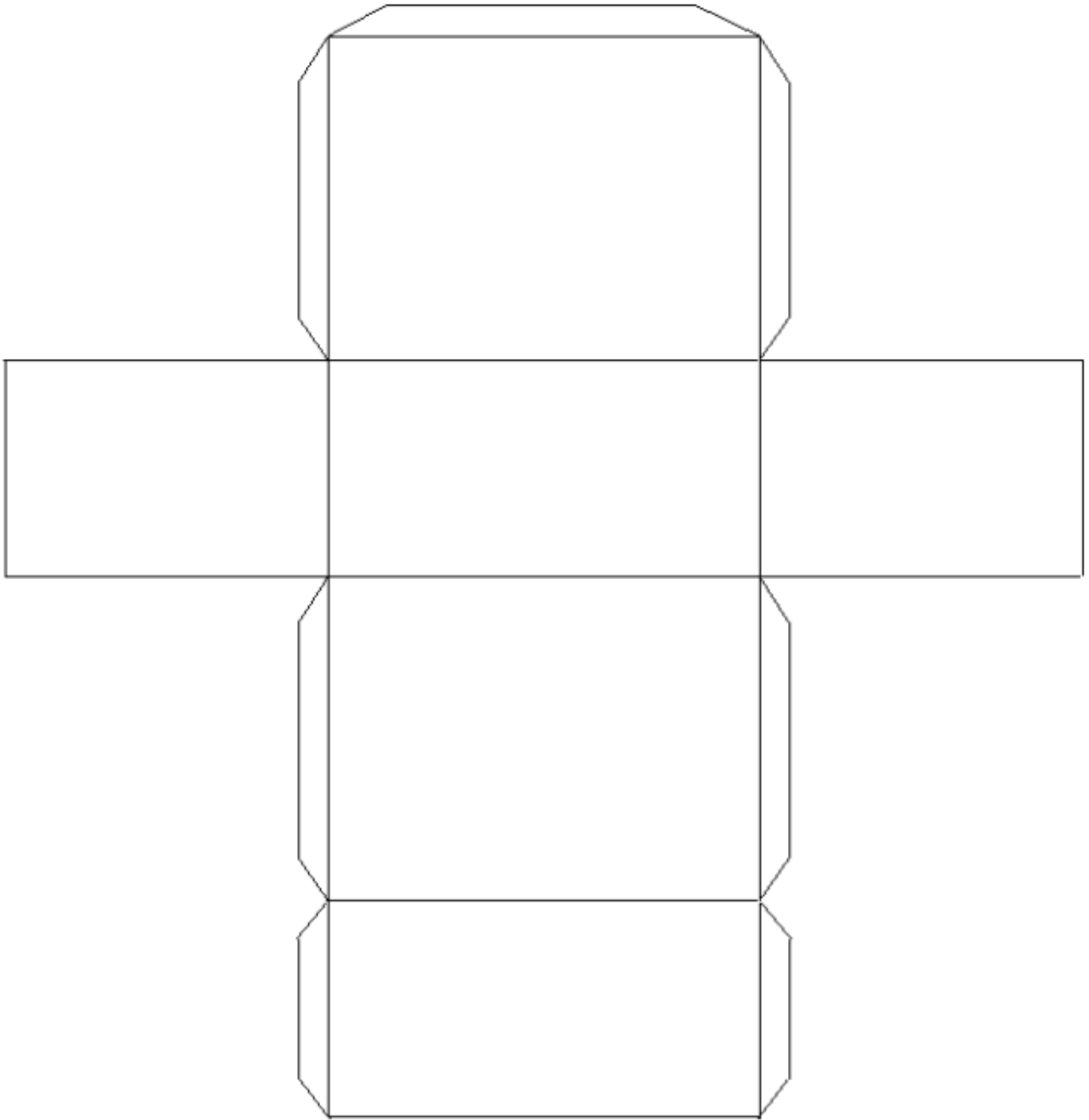


Geometric Figure Templates

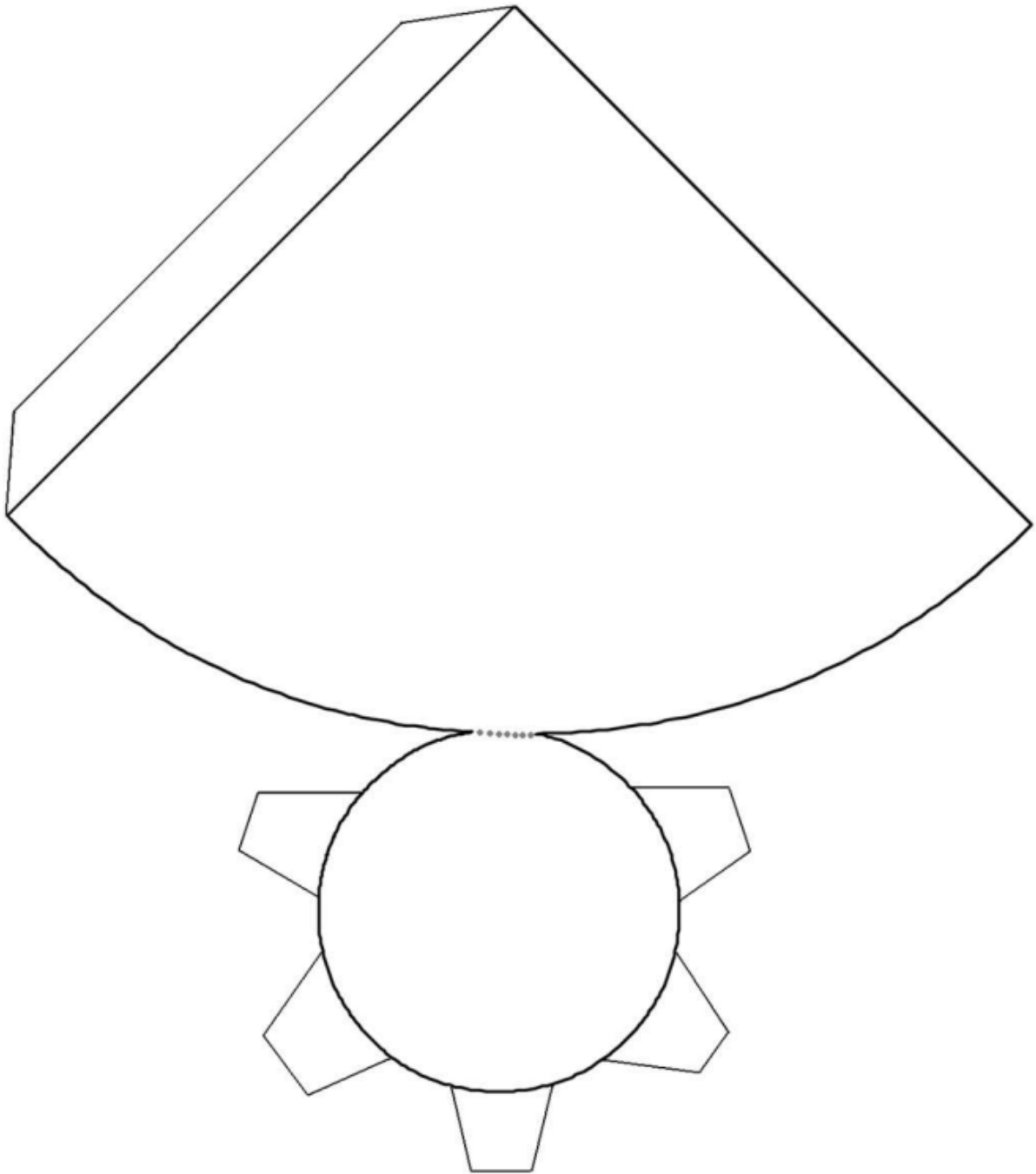
CUBE



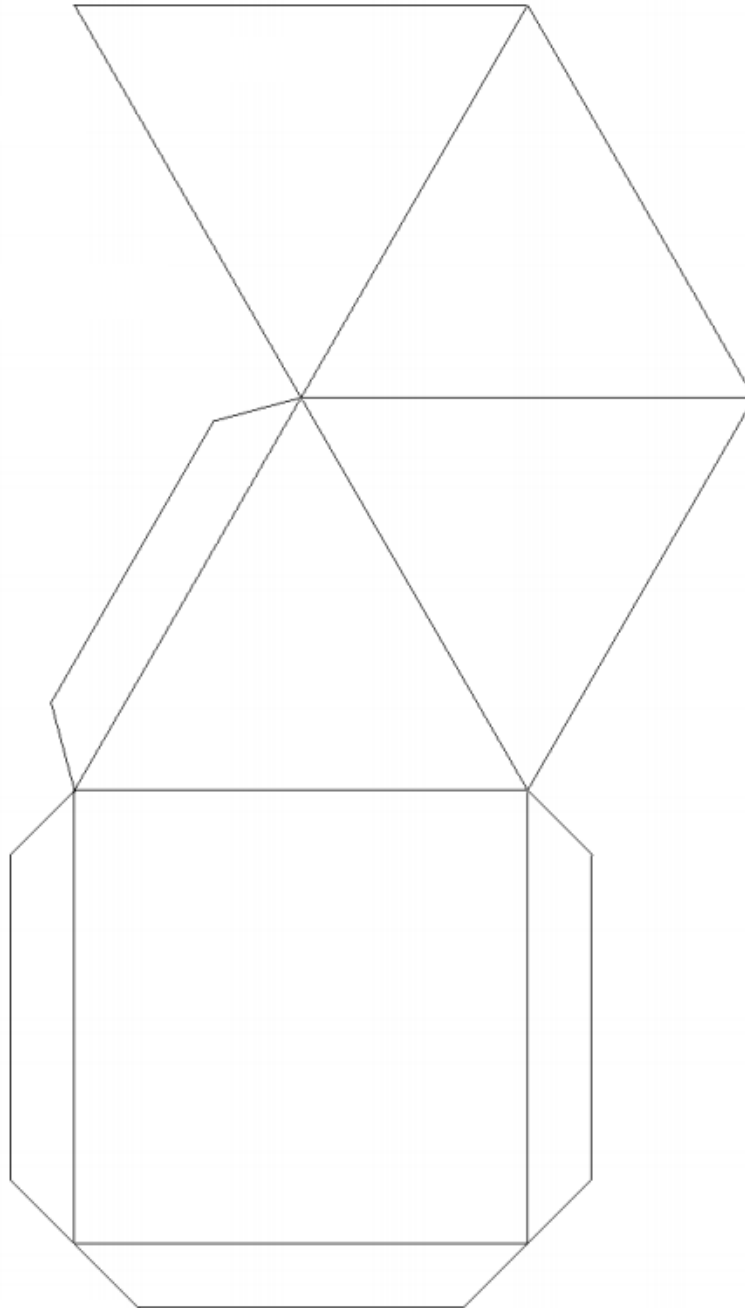
RECTANGULAR PRISM



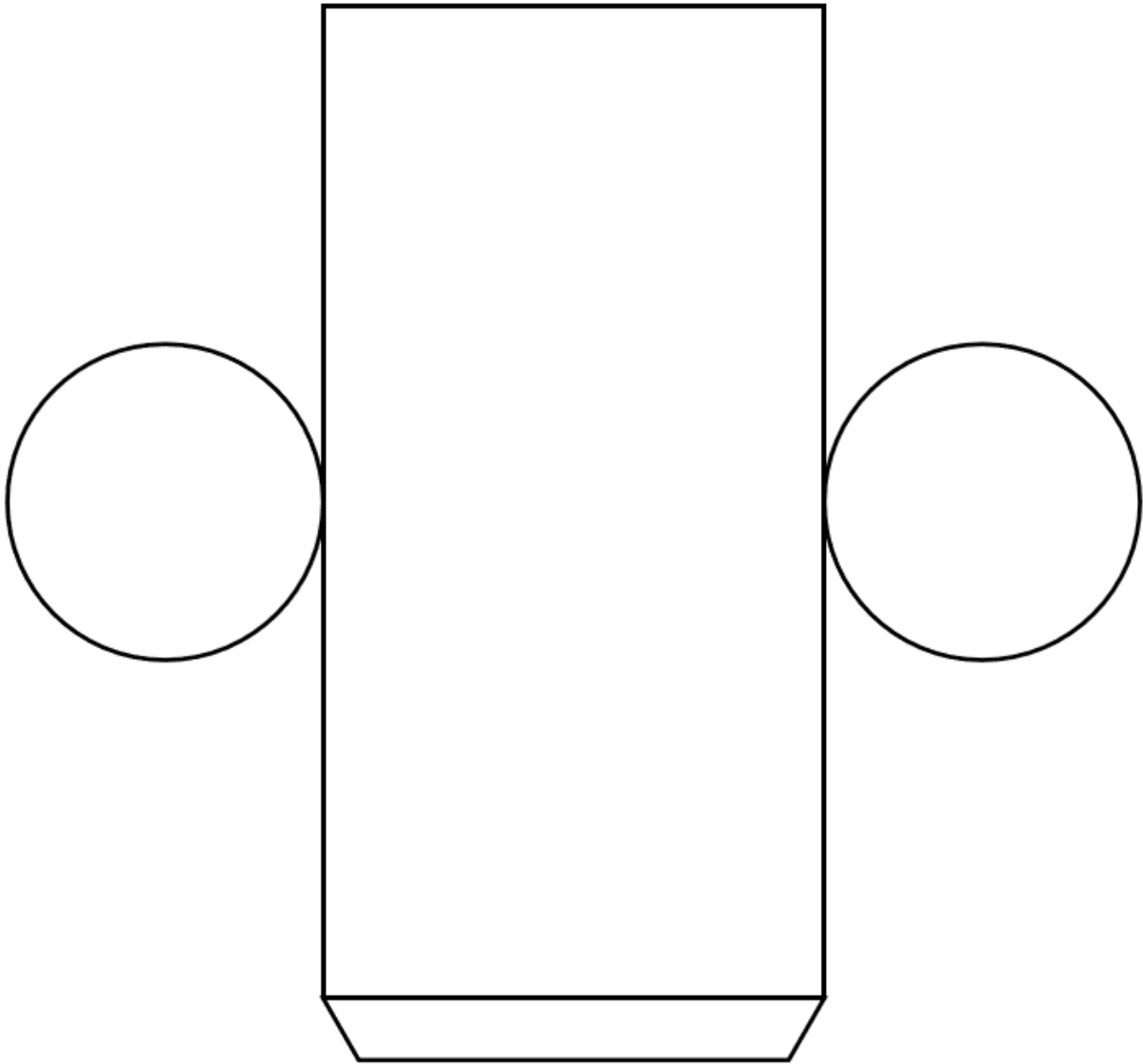
CONE



PYRAMID



CYLINDER



Fairytales Book-Making Project

Art Activity Guide

TEKS: 2B; 2C

In this activity, students will get to construct their own paper book! Students may transcribe the fairytales that they wrote in the **Grimm Brothers' Fairy Tales Activity** or may create another kind of book such as a magazine, journal, etc. There are a variety of methods available to create books. Choose whichever style of book works best for your class based on complexity and availability of supplies. Some might include stab-stitch binding, accordion books or the simple instant book, as shown below. To learn more about different book-making methods, conduct some research online or reference *How to Make Books* by Esther K. Smith.

To create a basic folding book, you will need the following supplies:

- Paper (construction paper, cardstock, etc.)
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Yarn, twine or bookbinding string
- Supplies to decorate! (Ex. colored pencils, markers, stamps, magazine clipping, etc.)

Instructions:

1. Students will begin by choosing several sheets of paper to create their books. They may use construction paper, cardstock or standard printer paper. Depending on the amount of pages desired, have students use 2 or 3 sheets. Students may choose to cut their paper in half to make smaller pages as well.
2. Begin by folding each sheet of paper in half (hamburger style). After folding all of the pages, stack them on top of one another so that all of the folded sides line up together. Next, use a hole punch to punch several holes along the folded sides.
3. Students will then use yarn, twine or bookbinding string to “bind” their books. Use different patterns and techniques to secure the book.
4. Following this step, students may transcribe their fairy tales (or other projects) into their newly constructed books! Encourage students to illustrate their stories with drawings or magazine clippings.

Additional Resources

- For more information about Elisabet Ney's life and legacy, visit:
 - Elisabet Ney Museum Biography: <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/elisabet-ney-biography>
 - Women in Texas History Biography: <https://www.womenintexashistory.org/biographies/elisabet-ney/>
 - Texas State Historical Association Biography: <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fne26>
- More fairy tales written by the Brothers Grimm are available from https://germanstories.vcu.edu/grimm/grimm_menu.html.
- For more information about Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston, visit:
 - Stephen F Austin: www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/people/a_c/austin.htm
 - Sam Houston: www.history.com/topics/mexico/sam-houston