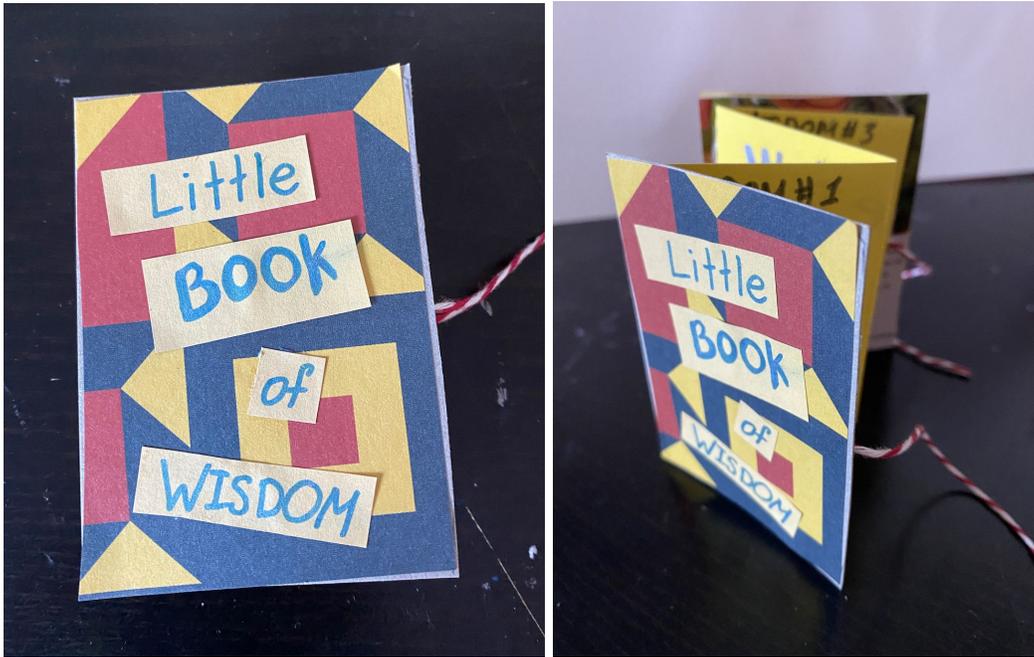


LITTLE BOOK OF WISDOM

Wisdom is the ability to make good judgments and find solutions for personal challenges by looking inward. In Hindu mythology, **Ganesha** is the Lord of Wisdom and Remover of Obstacles. Use this activity to learn more about Ganesha, reflect on solutions for your own challenges, and learn to make an accordion book.



What is an accordion book? A type of book constructed with the pages folded in a zig-zag pattern, similar to the musical instrument (which is how it gets its name!).

Who is Ganesha? Ganesha is a God in the Hindu faith, which originated in India. He is the Remover of Obstacles as well as the Lord of Wisdom and Intelligence. He is recognized by his elephant head and chubby human body with multiple arms. He is one of the most popular deities in the Hindu pantheon and is celebrated by people all around the world.

An **obstacle** is a challenge or something that stands in the way of progress. Hindu worshipers often pray to Ganesha to help them be successful in their studies or business ventures. Images of Ganesha depict him holding different objects in his many hands, such as an axe to slay away obstacles in his path. As the Lord of Wisdom, he guides people in making good decisions to resolve their problems.

Take a look at the sculpture of Ganesha below and see if you can recognize some of the features that he is known for.



Ganesha
India; Madhya Pradesh (11th C.)
Red sandstone
Estate of Harold and Jane Ullman
1991.67.9

Questions to Inspire Your Artwork:

- What is an obstacle you are currently experiencing?
- What are some ways you can overcome the obstacle?
- Is there a wise saying you hear repeated in your family/community/faith? How can that guide your solutions to the obstacle you are facing now?

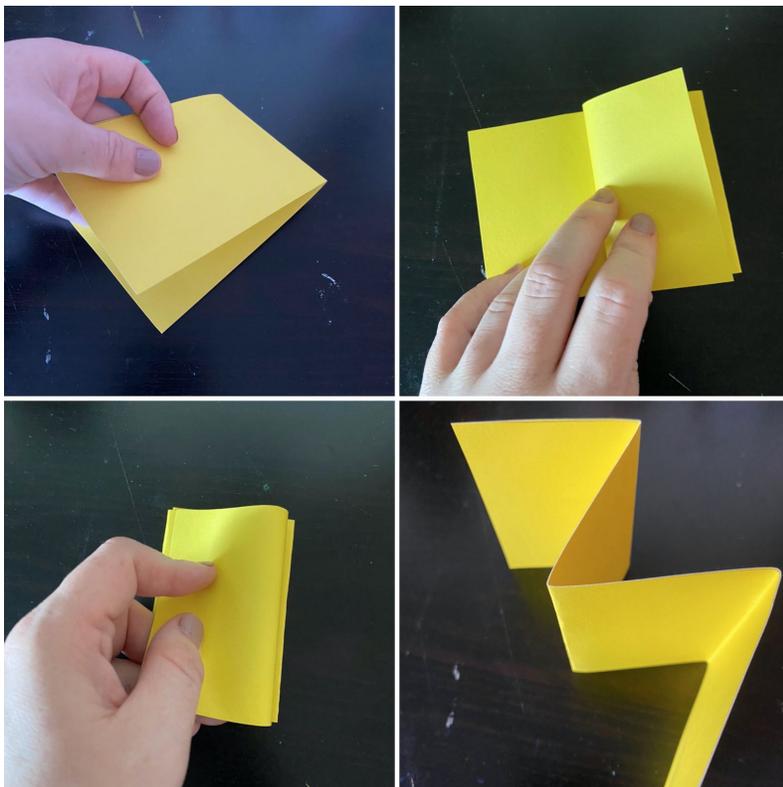
Materials:

- Paper cut into a long rectangle (3" x 8" works well)
- Thin cardboard (like from cereal box) or cardstock paper
- String or ribbon
- Tape
- Scissors
- Glue
- Drawing tools (markers, crayons, colored pencils)
- Optional: decorative paper, construction paper, or magazines/newspaper



Instructions:

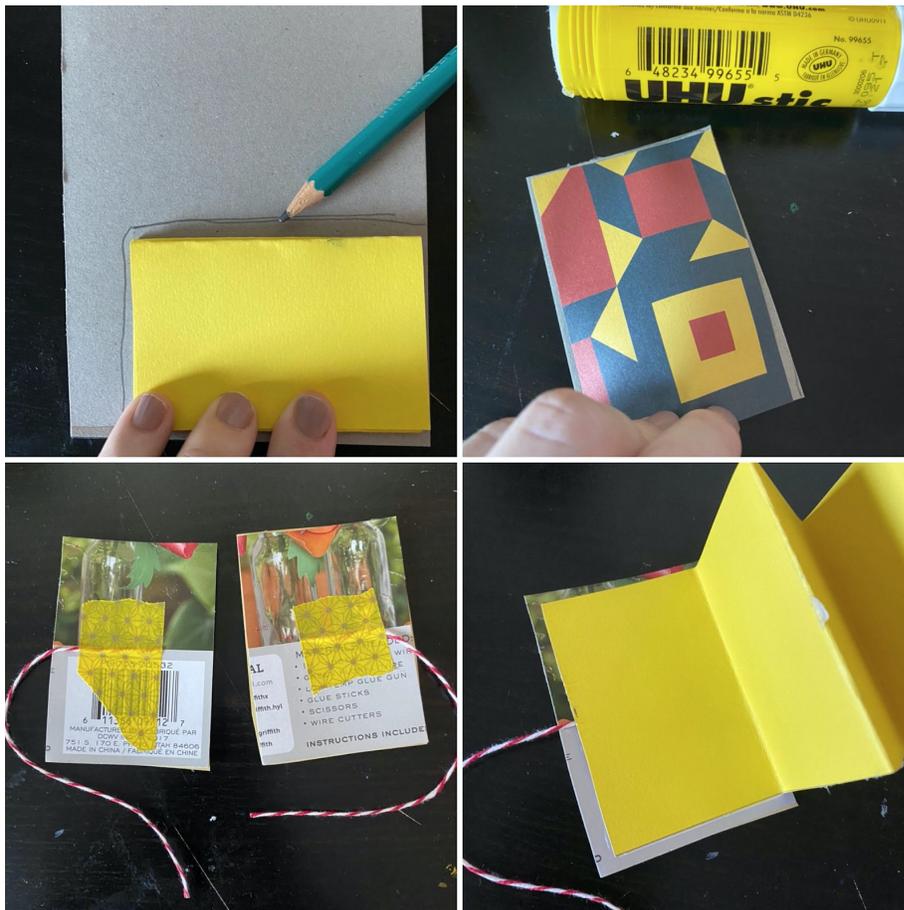
Step 1: To construct your accordion book, take the rectangular sheet of paper and fold it in half widthwise, matching up the short edges. Then take one edge and fold it over towards the center fold. Repeat with the other edge, folding the opposite way, and crease all folds. Now you have an accordion fold!



Step 2: To make the covers of the book, place the folded accordion over the cardstock and trace around, leaving about ¼ inch around all sides. Cut it out and make one more (two total). You can decorate the covers with patterned paper, colored construction paper, a magazine image, or any other way you like.

Step 3: Cut two pieces of string or ribbon to a desired amount (at least 5 inches each). Tape each string to the center of the back of the covers, letting it dangle from the sides.

Step 4: Apply glue to the top page of the accordion and attach to the back of the cover, aligning in the center (and covering the tape). Repeat on the other side.



Step 5: Now, use one page to write down and/or draw an obstacle or challenge you are facing. Use the wisdom within yourself to find creative solutions or possible ways for managing it. Use the other pages to write down and/or draw what you came up with.



Extensions:

- You can add more pages to your book by gluing two or more accordion folds together
- You can look up quotes and wise sayings to add to your book
- Create a book as a family and share wisdom from your different experiences

This project was designed by Valentina M. Quezada, Youth and Family Programs Specialist for the USC Pacific Asia Museum Education Department