

ACTIVITY!

MAKE YOUR OWN ZIBALDONE

A **zibaldone** is the Italian word for “a heap of things.” This is what Leonardo’s notebook was called. He collected a heap of ideas, observations, questions, and experiments on the pages of his notebooks, putting everything he saw or thought into the same book, instead of having different notebooks for different topics. And he used every corner and both sides of every page. In the 1400s, books and paper were more plentiful than they had ever been, but they still weren’t as inexpensive as they are today! As you explore and observe the world through Leonardo’s eyes, you need a notebook to record your ideas. Make your own zibaldone!

➤ **Using scissors, trim your pieces of paper so they are all the same size.** Stack all of the sheets together. Staple them along the longer side. Don’t use too much paper or it will be too thick to staple. A good size is something you can hold in one hand while drawing in it with the other hand.

➤ **Wrap the cardboard around your paper, inside out so the covers are blank.** Trim your cardboard to be about a half-inch larger than your paper.

➤ **Staple the cardboard and paper together along the spine, or the fold, so the paper is secured.** Put a strip of duct tape along the spine of the book to cover the staples.

➤ **Use a hole punch to punch a hole in the top, left-hand corner of the cardboard.**

➤ **Secure the binder ring through the hole and attach the string or lanyard to the ring.** Now, you can wear the notebook on your belt, just as Leonardo did.

➤ **Decorate the cover of your zibaldone.** Remember, paper was valuable in Leonardo’s time, so try to use all corners, spaces, and sides of the paper!

INVENTOR KIT

- paper (any kind! Look for scrap, colored, lined, etc.)
- cardboard (such as a cereal or snack box)
- duct tape
- binder ring
- string or lanyard

Think Like Leo!

Leonardo asked questions all the time. How does the frog jump? What makes the water in the stream move? Come up with 10 questions about the world around you. List these questions in your zibaldone and draw and write any observations that might answer these questions.



TEXT TO WORLD

Do you keep a journal? Do you post on a blog? How is this similar to Leonardo’s notebooks?