

Tunnel Books



- Tunnel books are made up of a series of pages that are held together by folded strips of paper on each side. In fact, the sides of a tunnel book might make you think of an accordion. The overall effect of a tunnel book is to create the illusion of depth and perspective





- Tunnel books are “read” through a hole in the cover. Each page features openings that allow the reader to see through the entire book to the back cover. The images on each page work together to form a three-dimensional scene inside the book that helps to tell the story.

- Tunnel books date all the way back to the mid-18th century, when they were originally called “peep shows.” The concept of tunnel books was inspired by theatrical stage sets. If you’ve ever witnessed a live play with movable set pieces, it’s easy to see how they inspired tunnel books.



At the Cooper-Hewitt Library is an 18th century tunnel book attributed to the engraver Martin Engelbrecht (1684-1750) of Germany. The set includes six hand-colored etched prints on grey felt pages with windows carefully cut out to create a perspective view of aristocratic men & women dancing together in a formal garden.

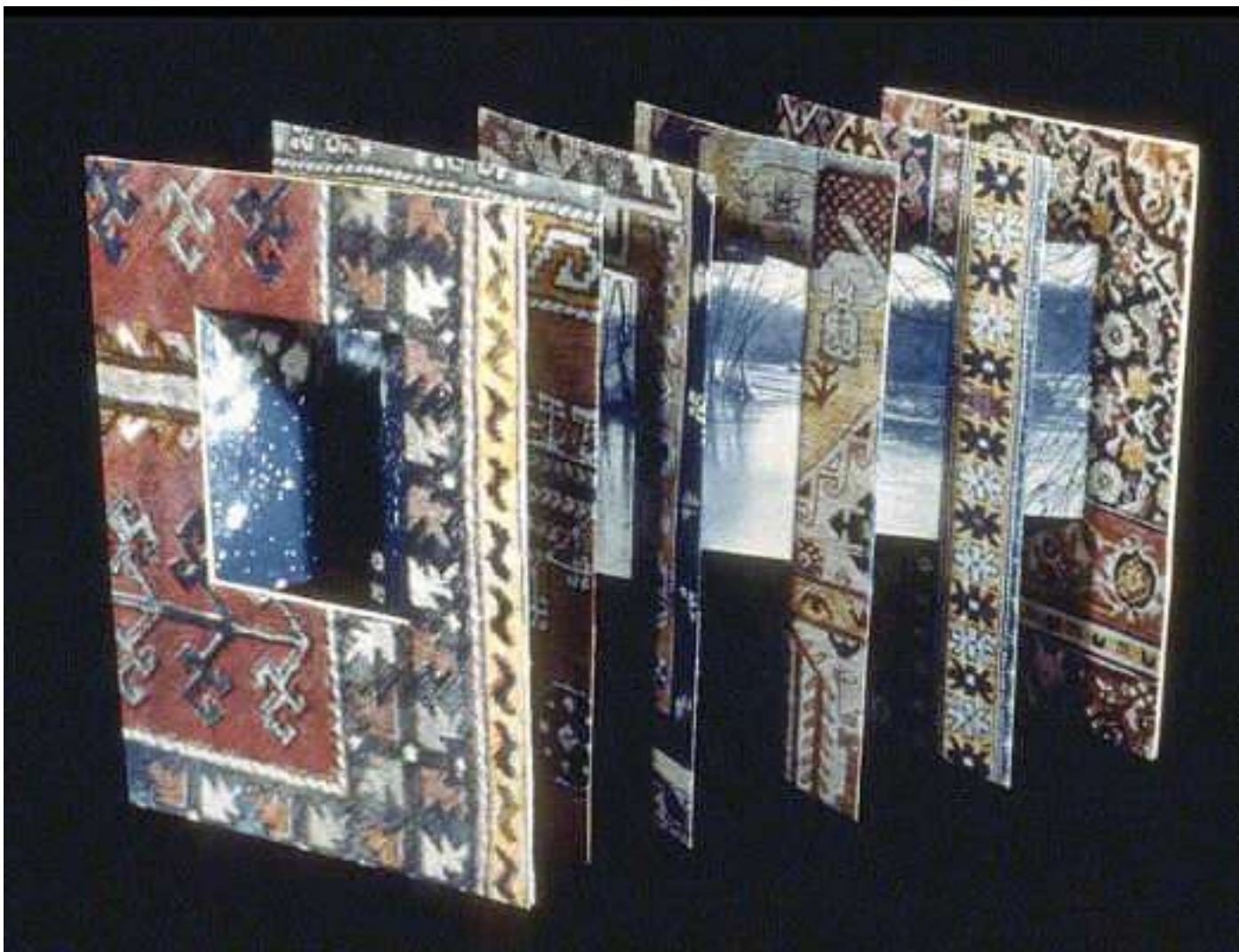
- The name “tunnel book” probably came from the fact that many of these types of books were created to celebrate the building of the tunnel under the Thames River in London in the mid-19th century. Throughout history, tunnel books have often been used to commemorate certain events. They’ve also often been sold as souvenirs at tourist attractions.



- Tunnel books are alive and well today. Artist Carol Barton creates modern tunnel books that are very popular. Other artists have taken tunnel books to the next level by turning their accordion sides and front and back covers into canvases for additional artwork.



Carol Barton



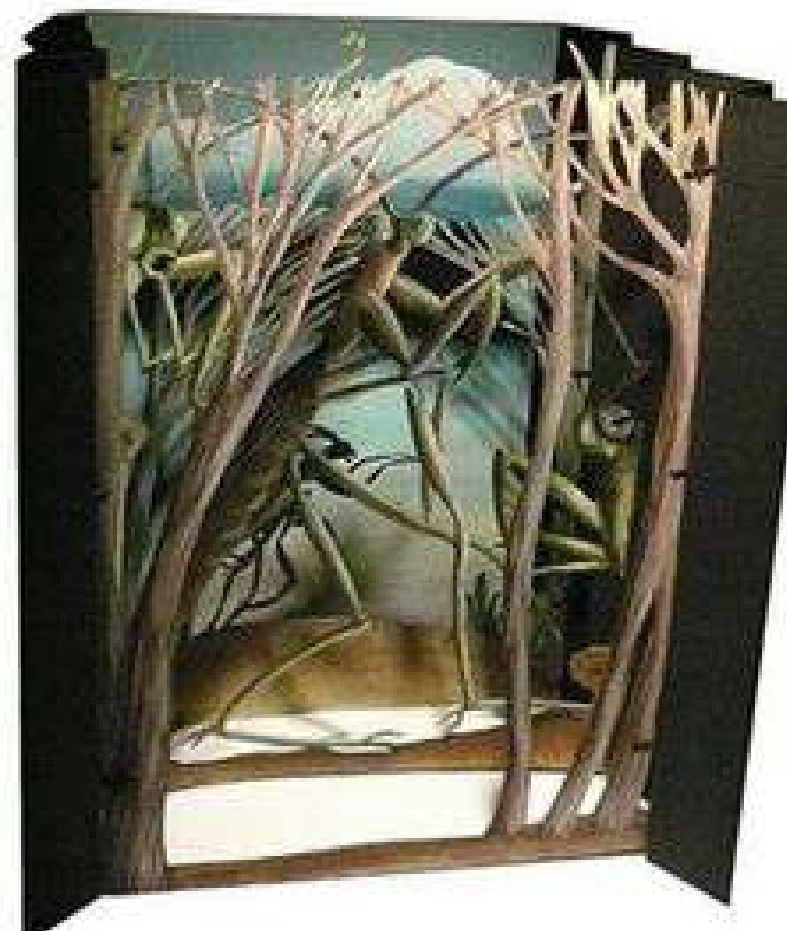
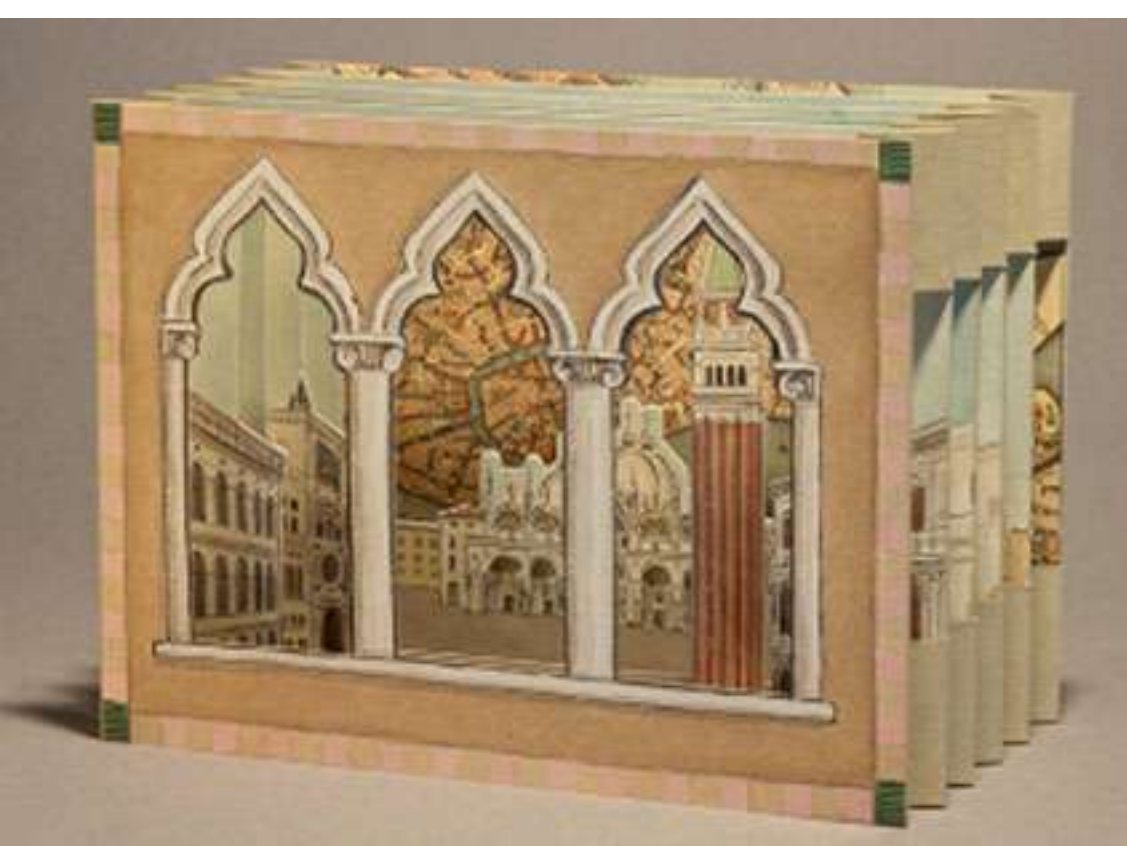
Examples of Awesome Tunnel Books





























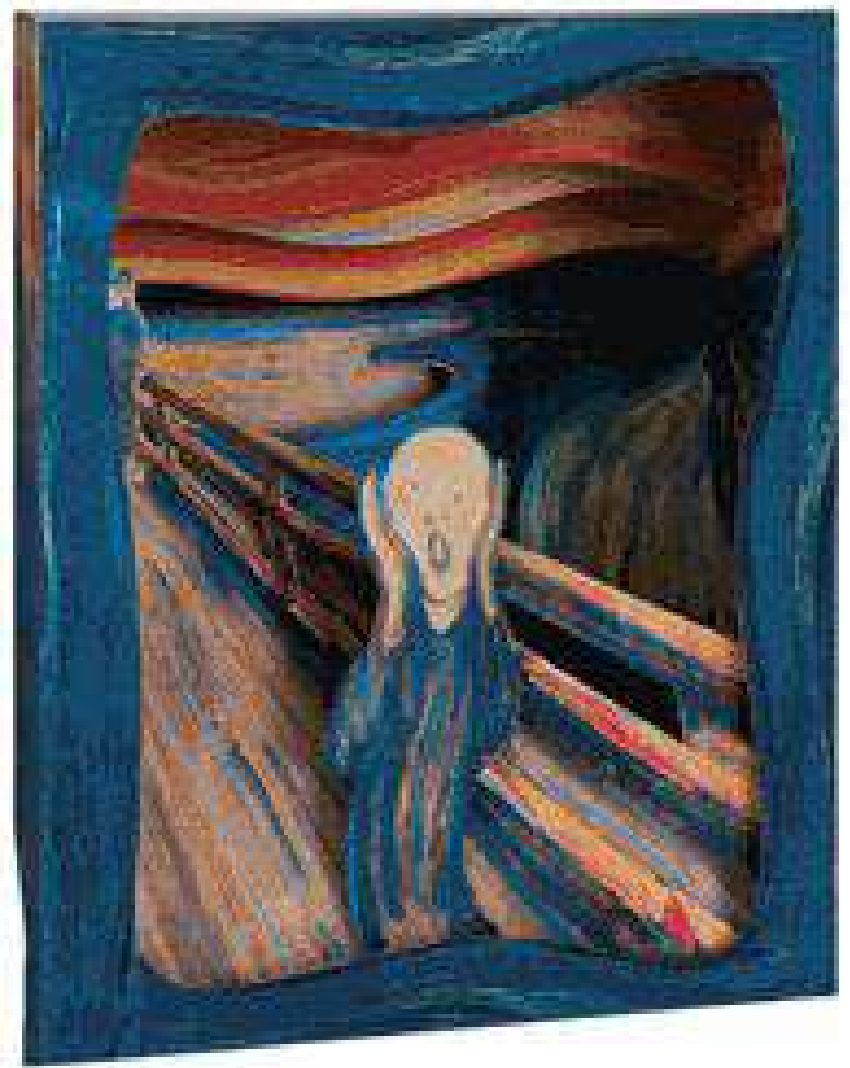


Student Examples

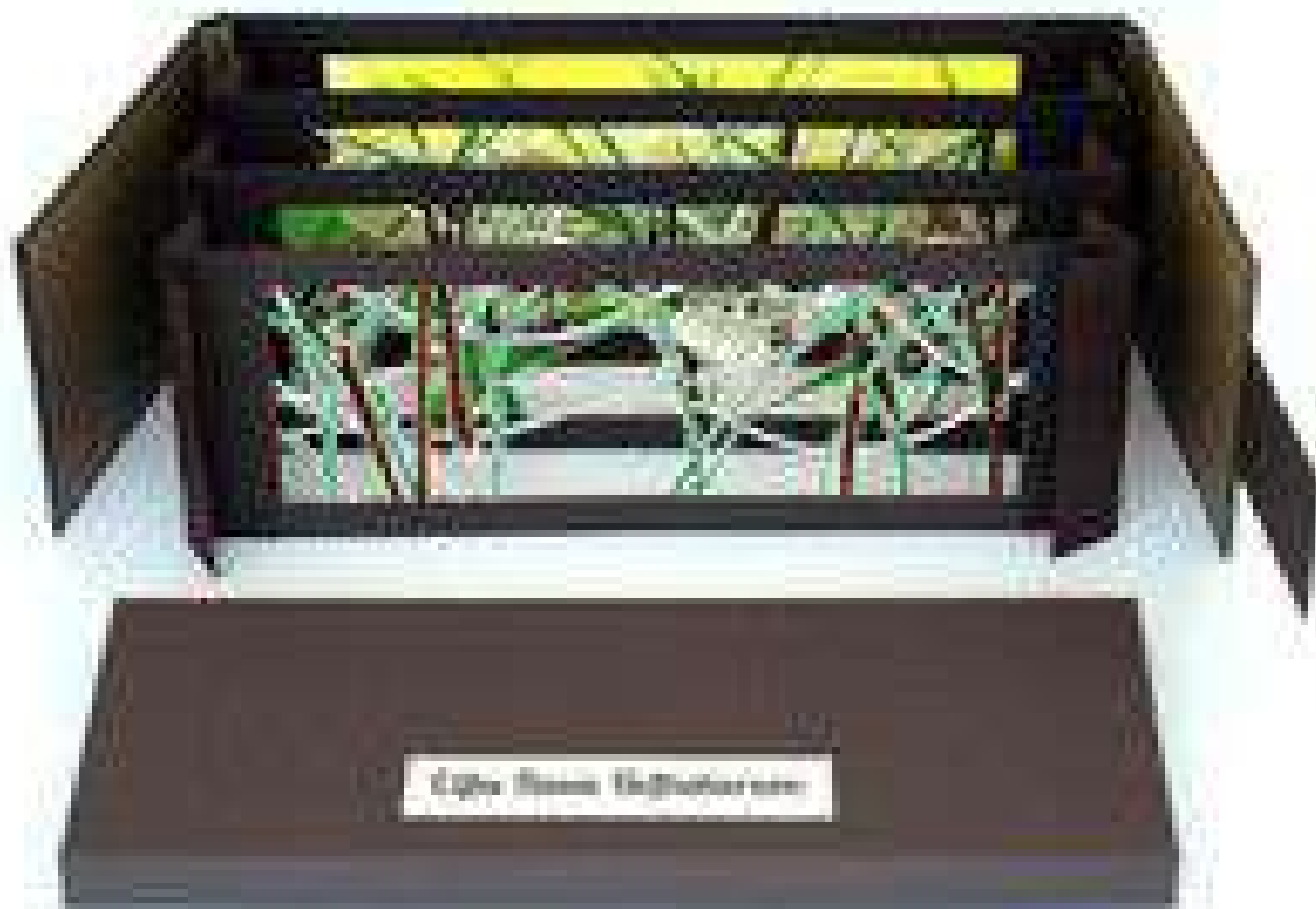














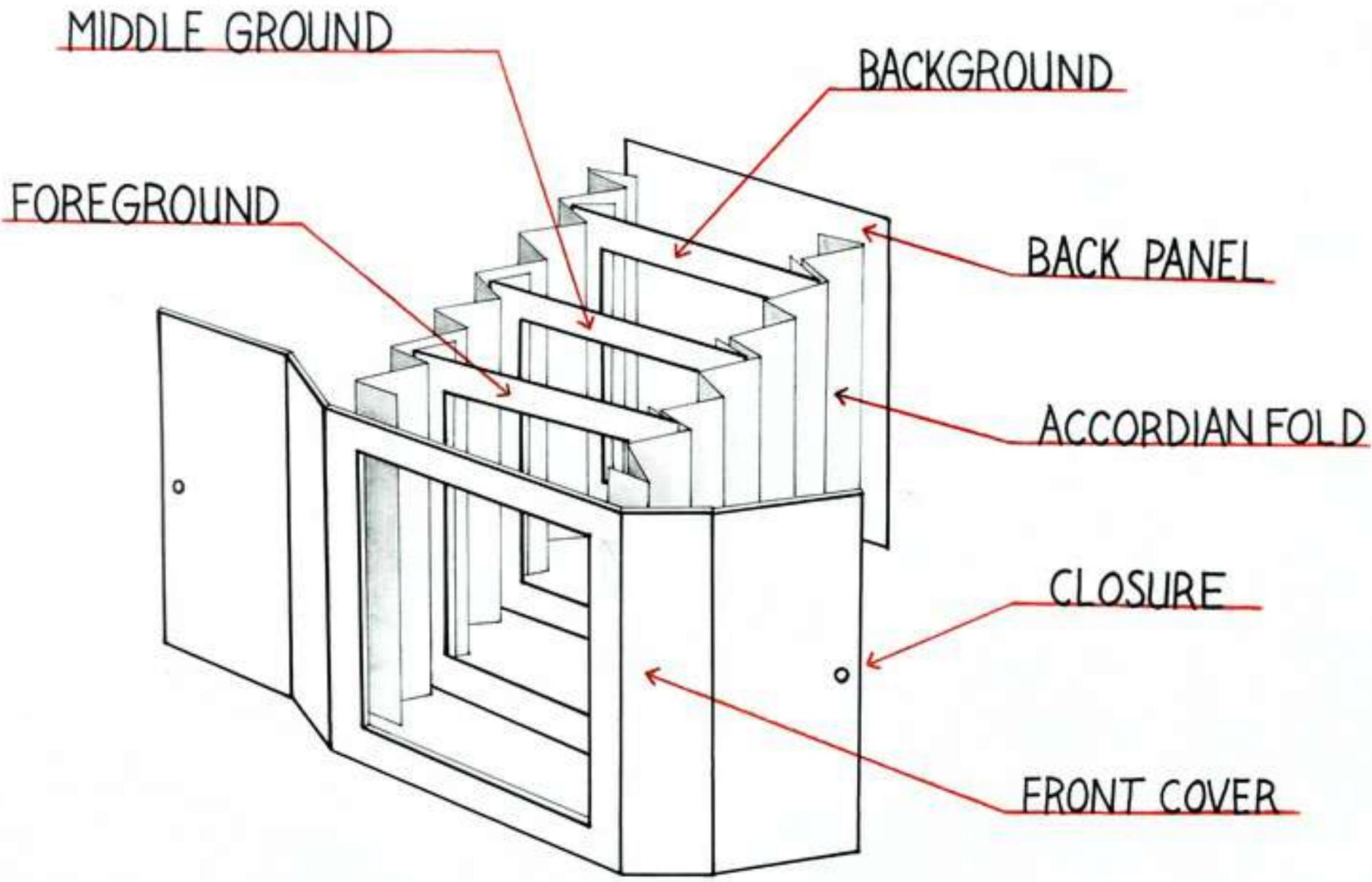






How to make a tunnel book

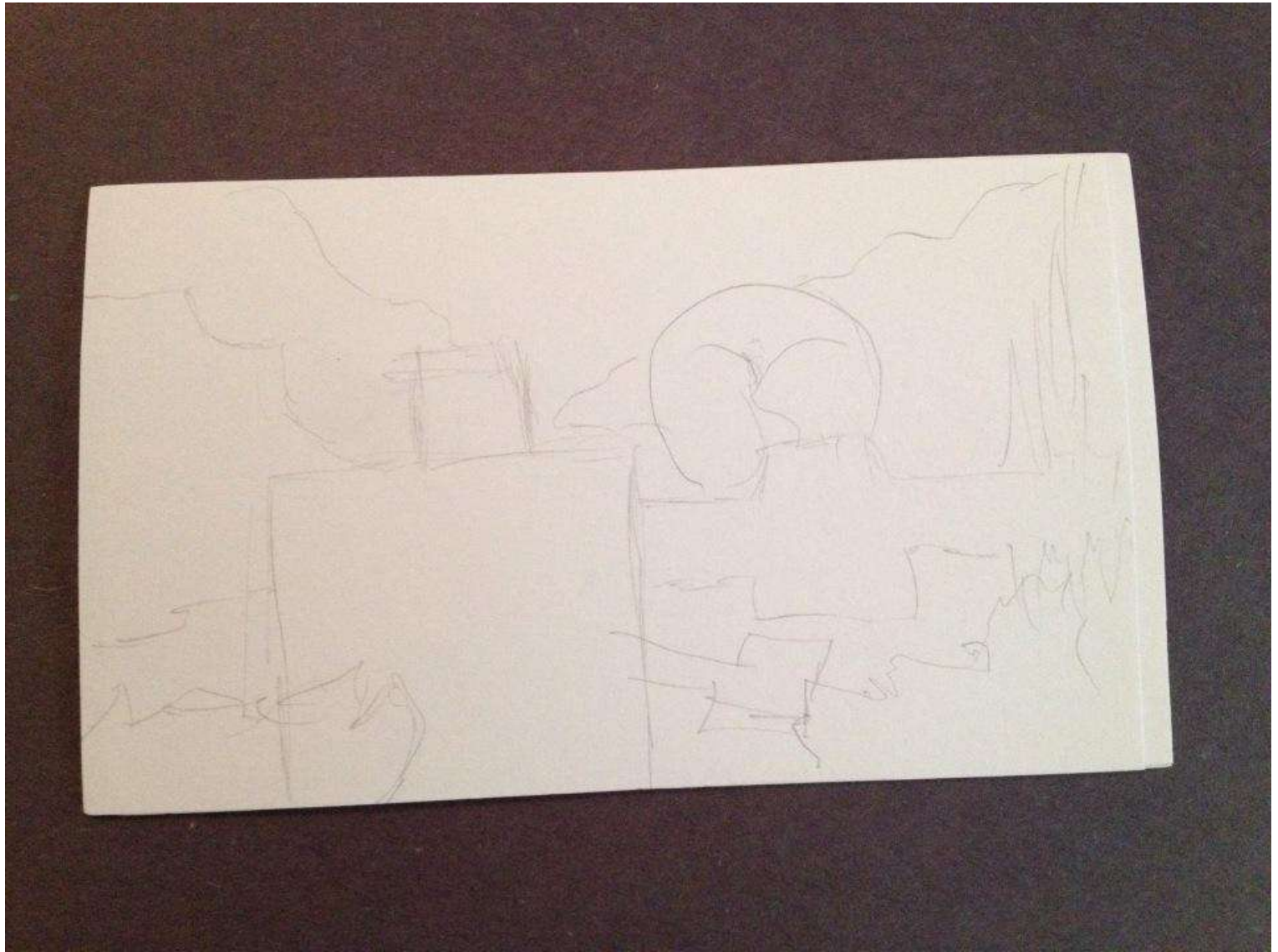




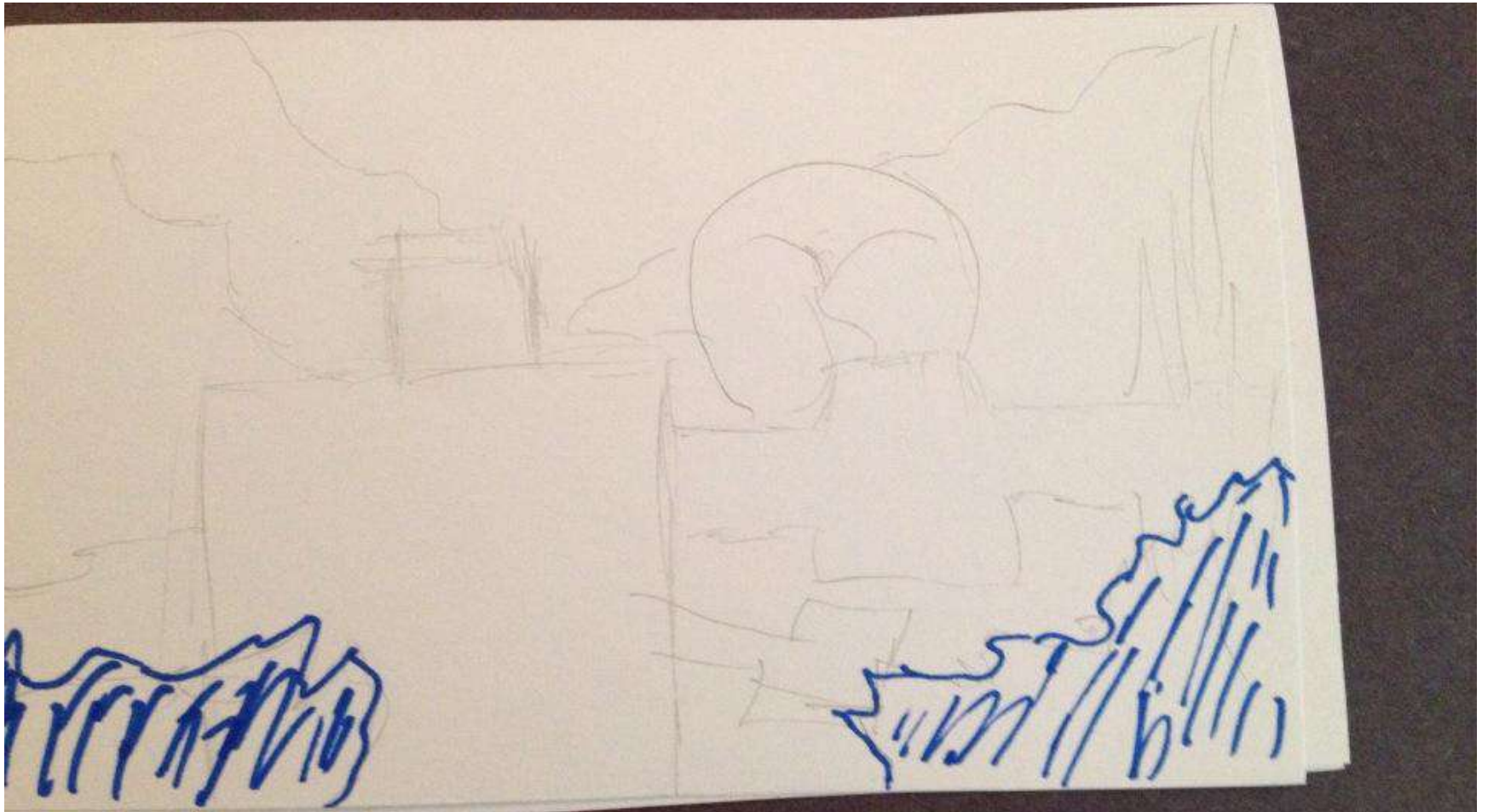
Find a work of art or come up with an original scene from a book to draw.

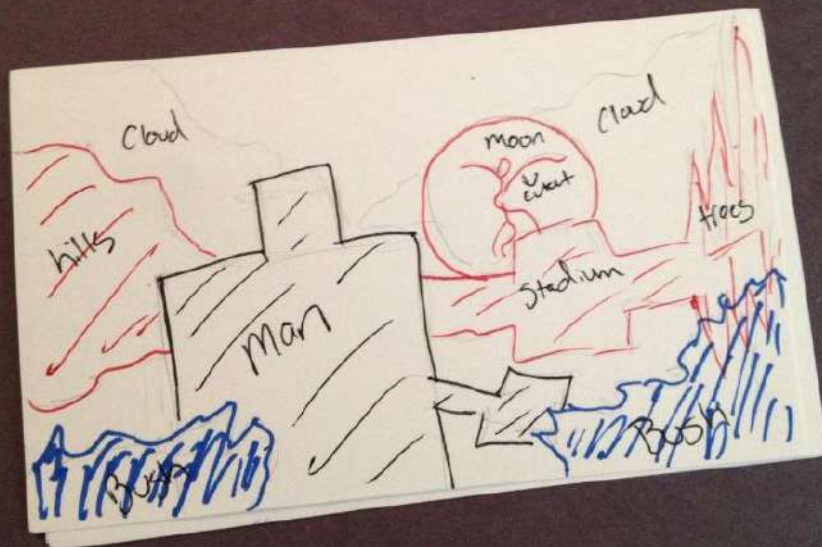
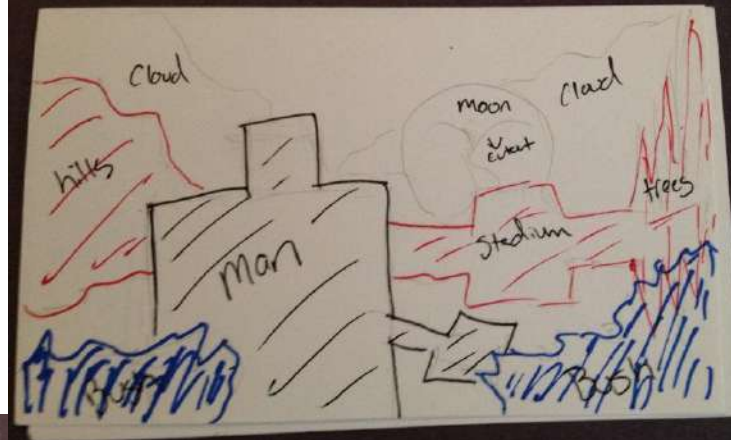
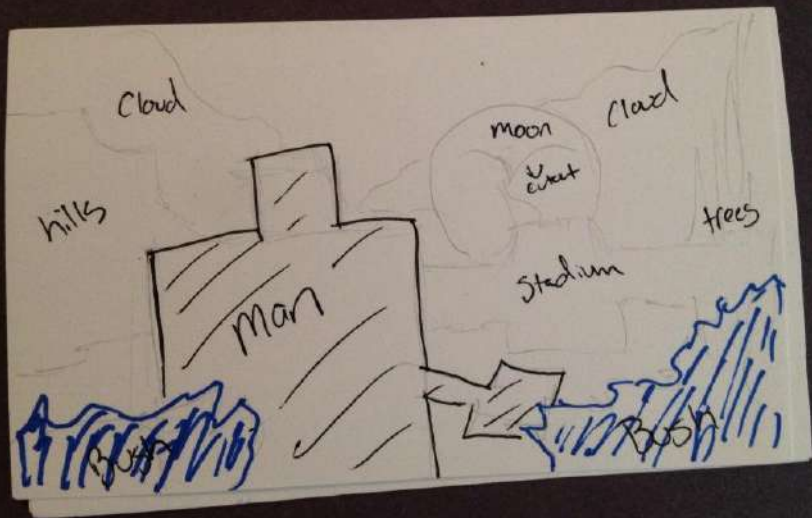


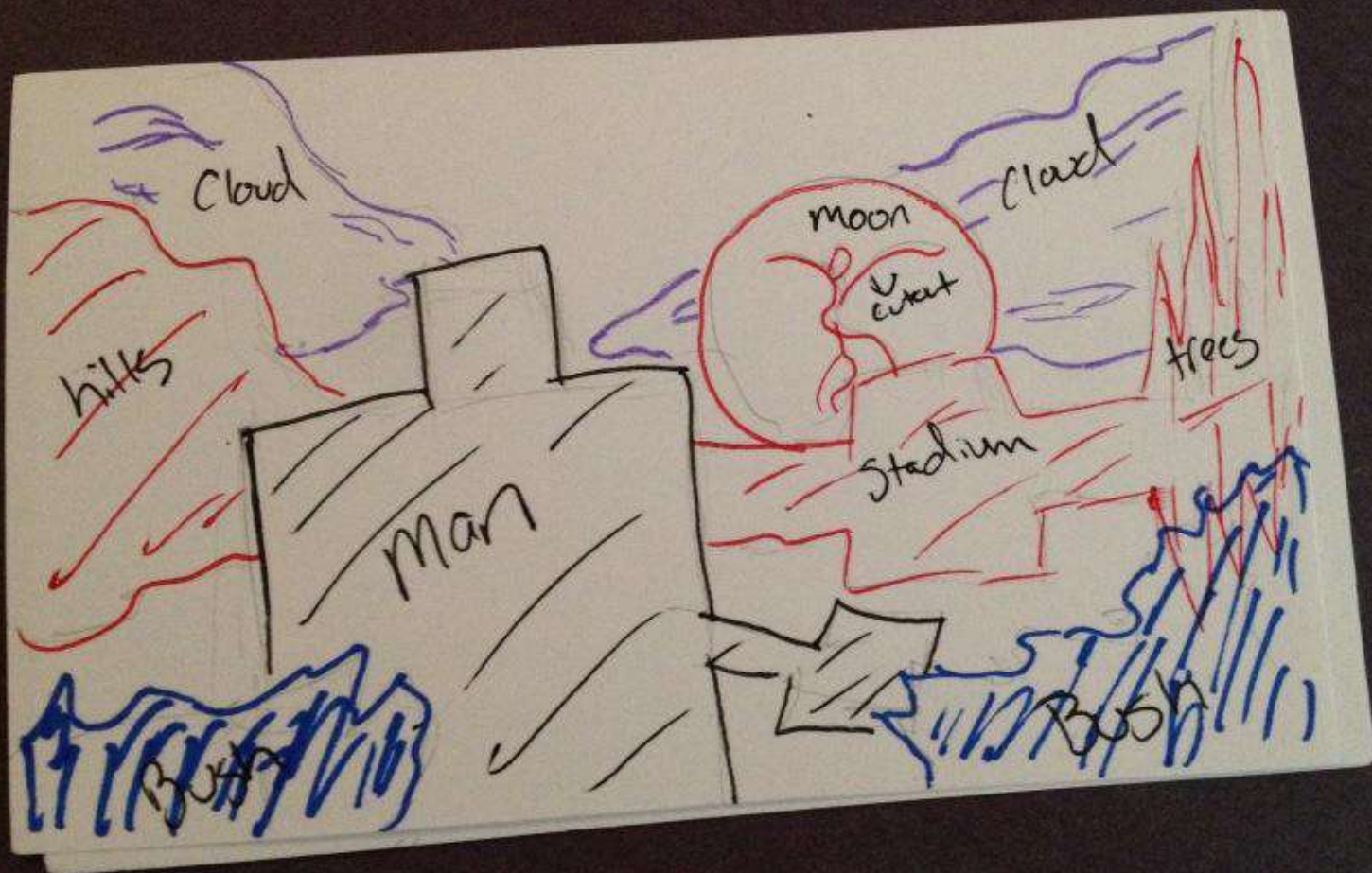
Sketch out your design



Color code for each layer

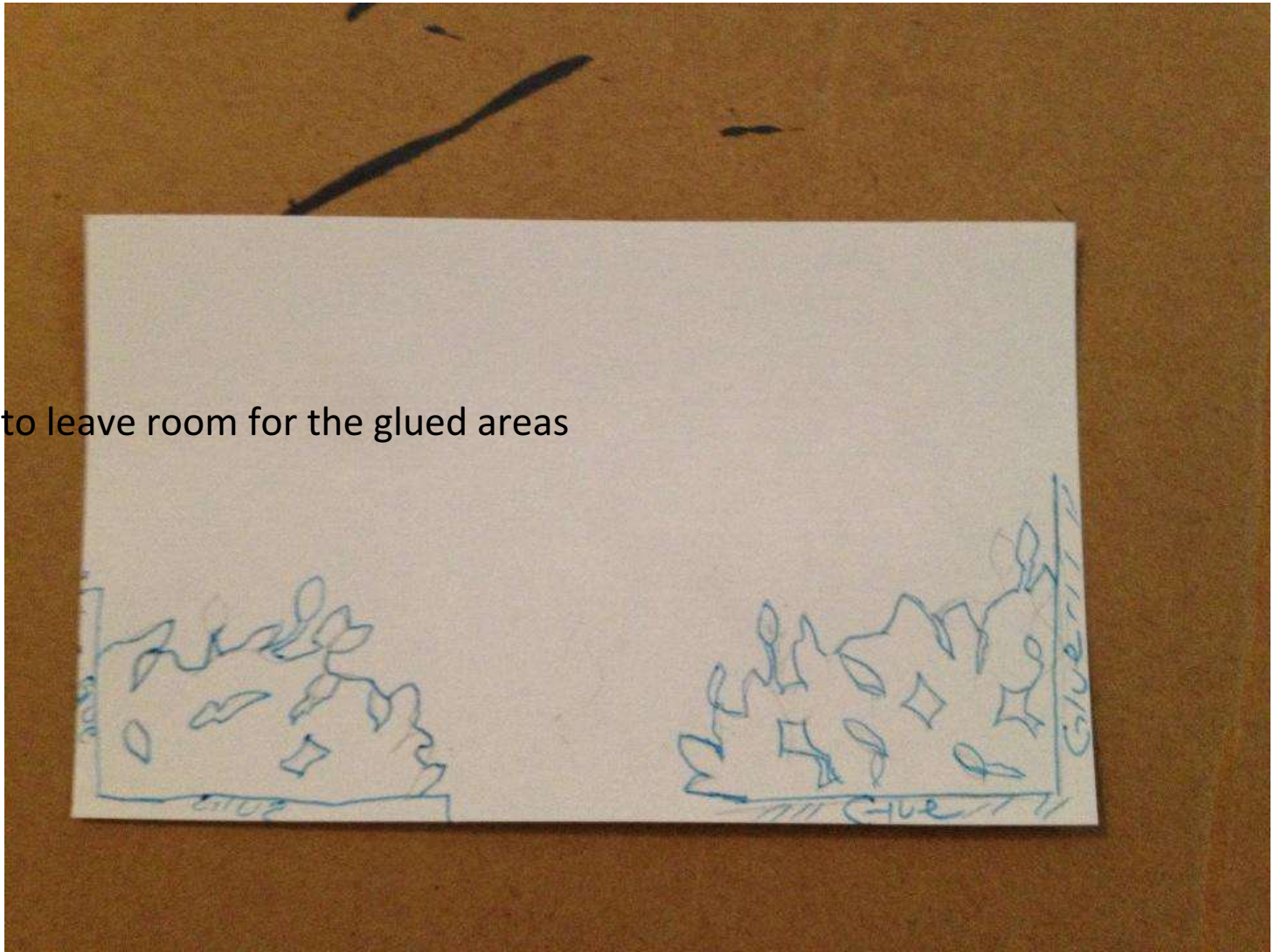




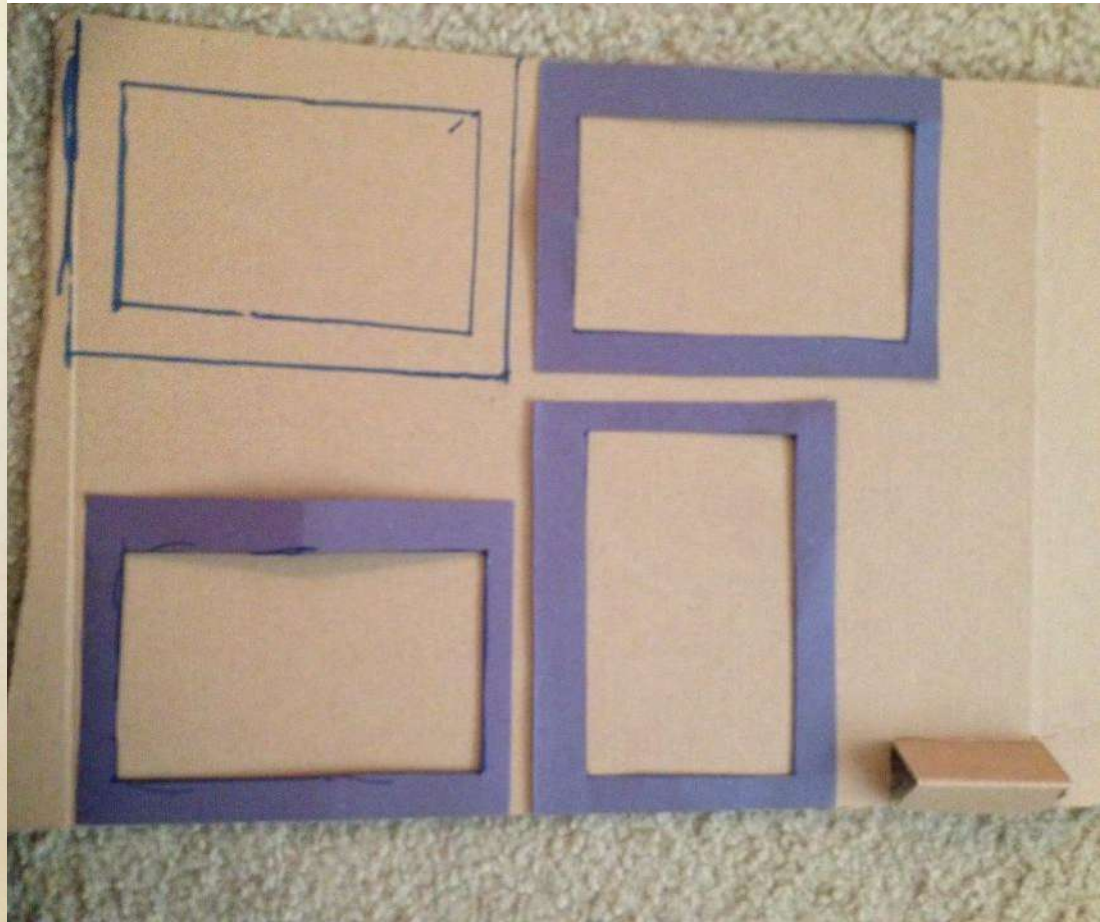


Start to sketch out designs on separate cards to be cut out later

Don't forget to leave room for the glued areas

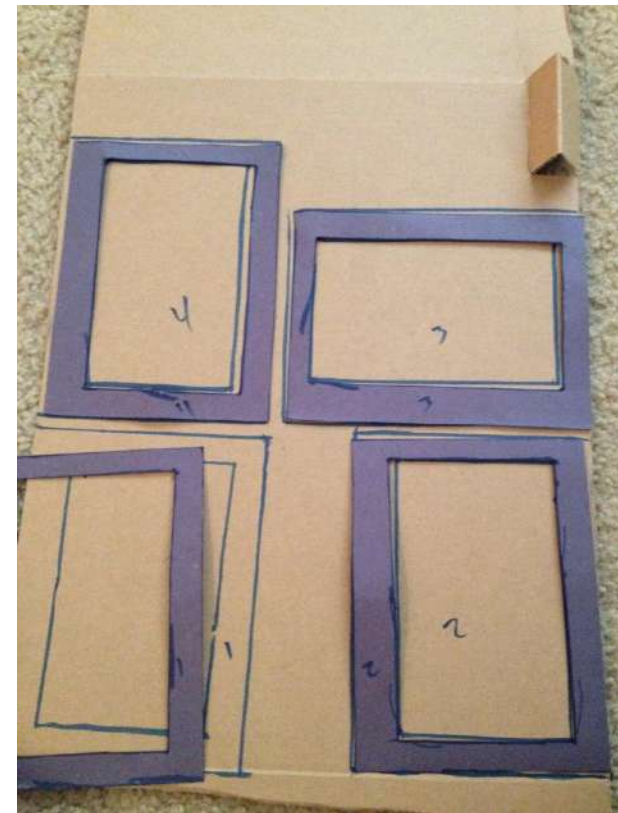
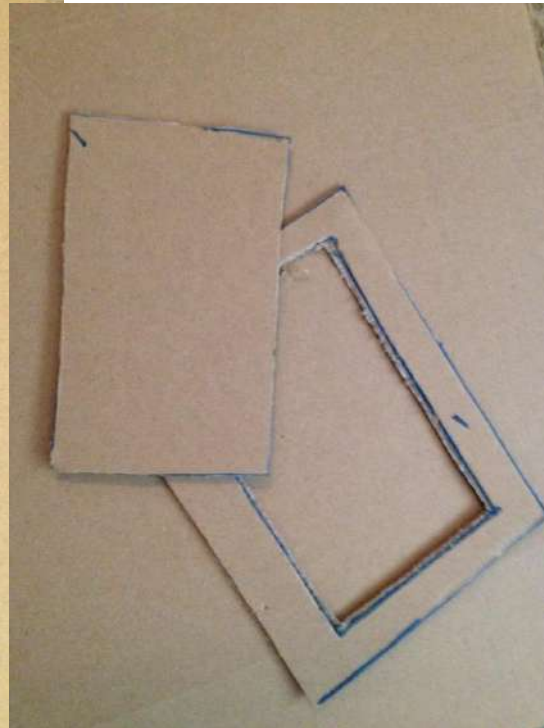
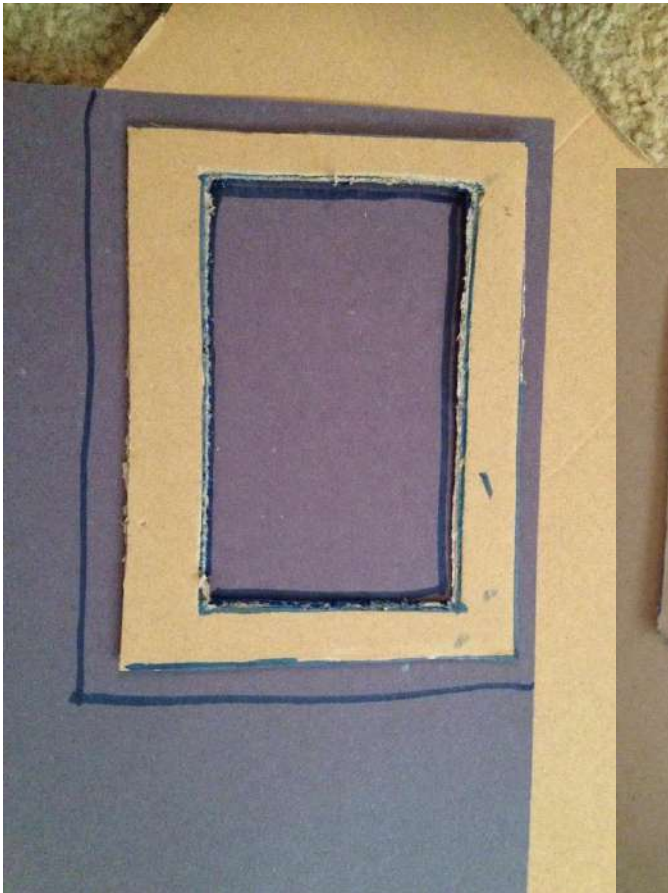


Once you have your drawings cut start making the frames

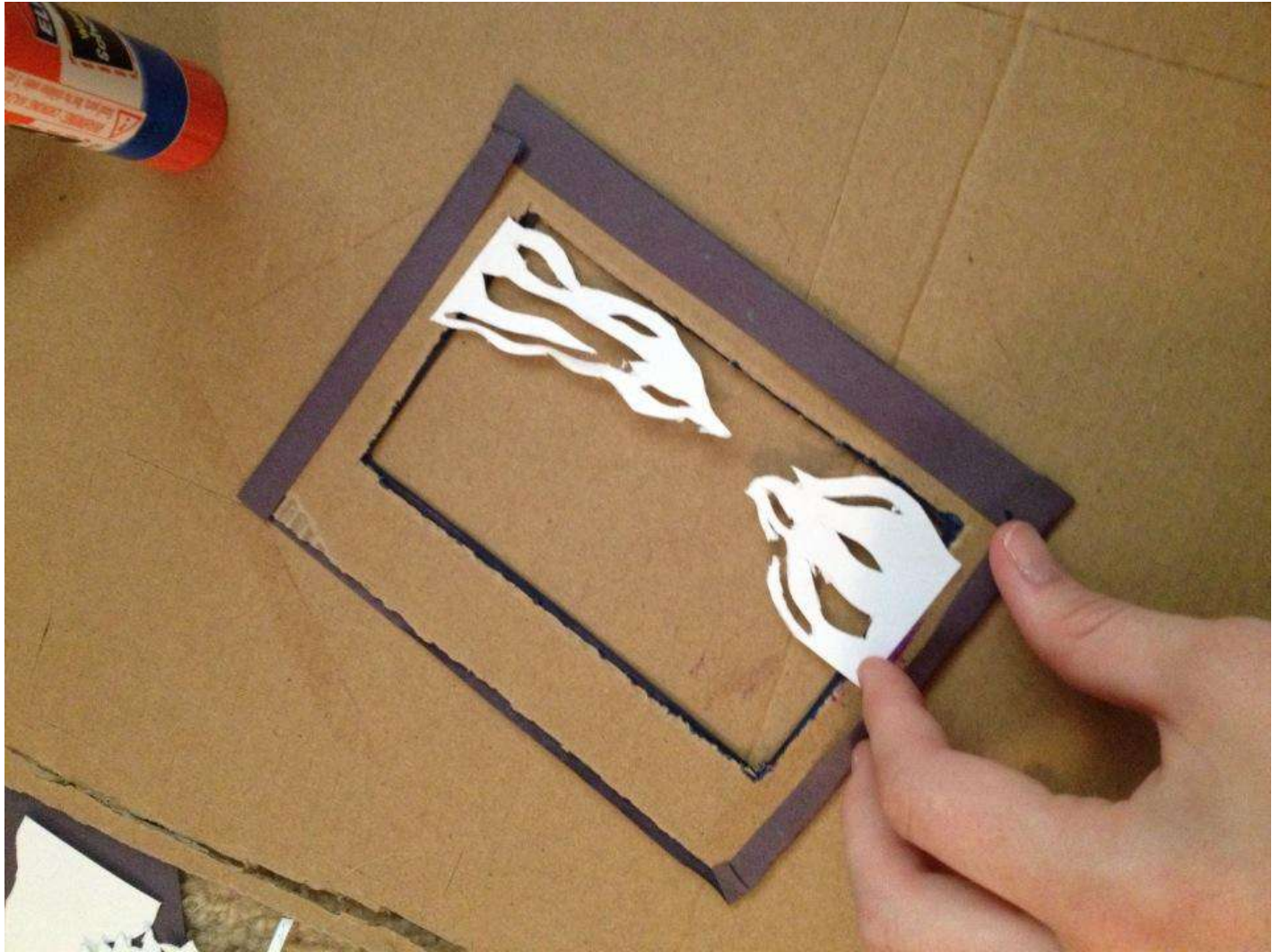


Cut out cardboard, then cut out paper
to cover all sides of the cardboard

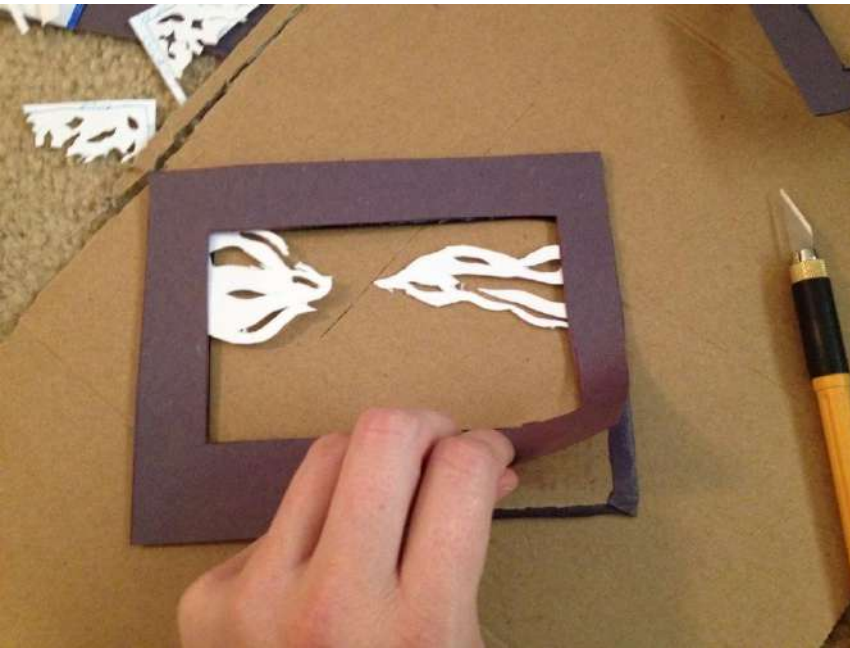
I don't want to see any cardboard!!!!!!



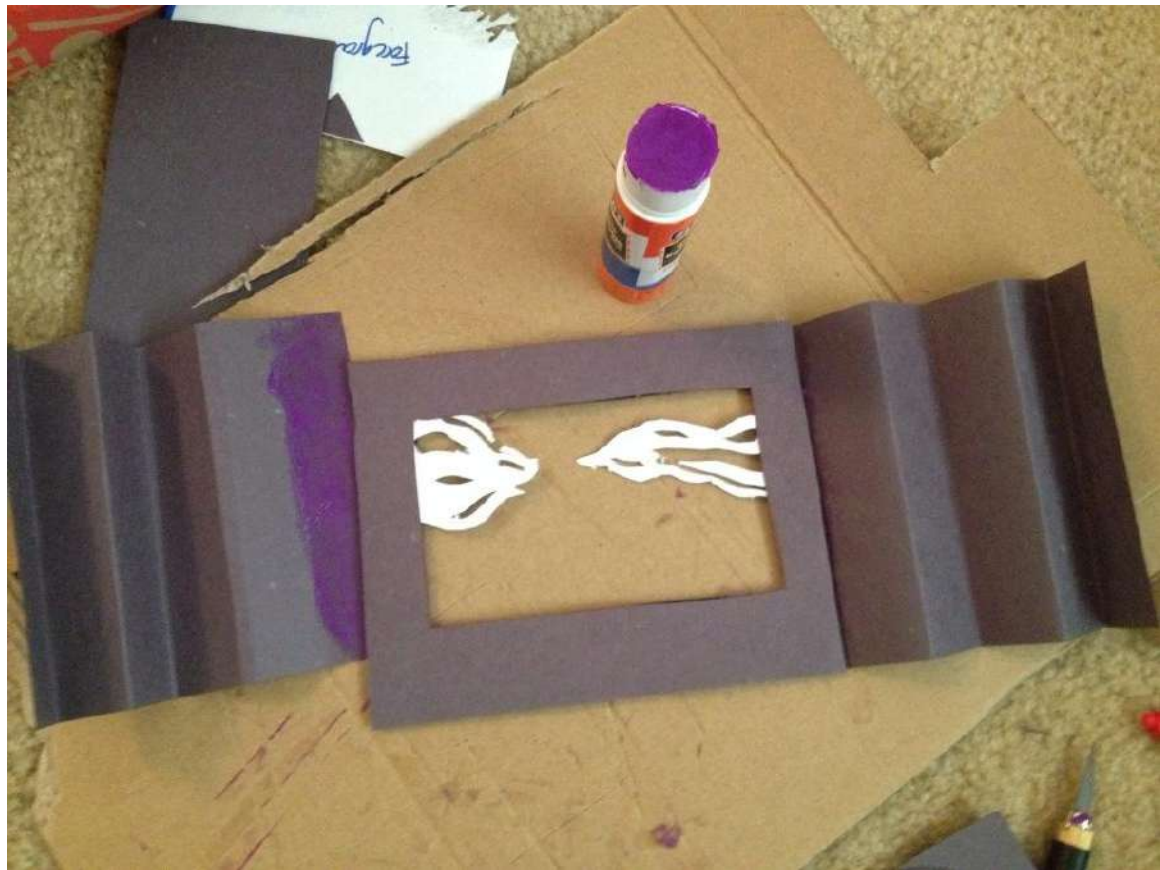
Cut out drawing then glue them on to the non covered side of the cardboard



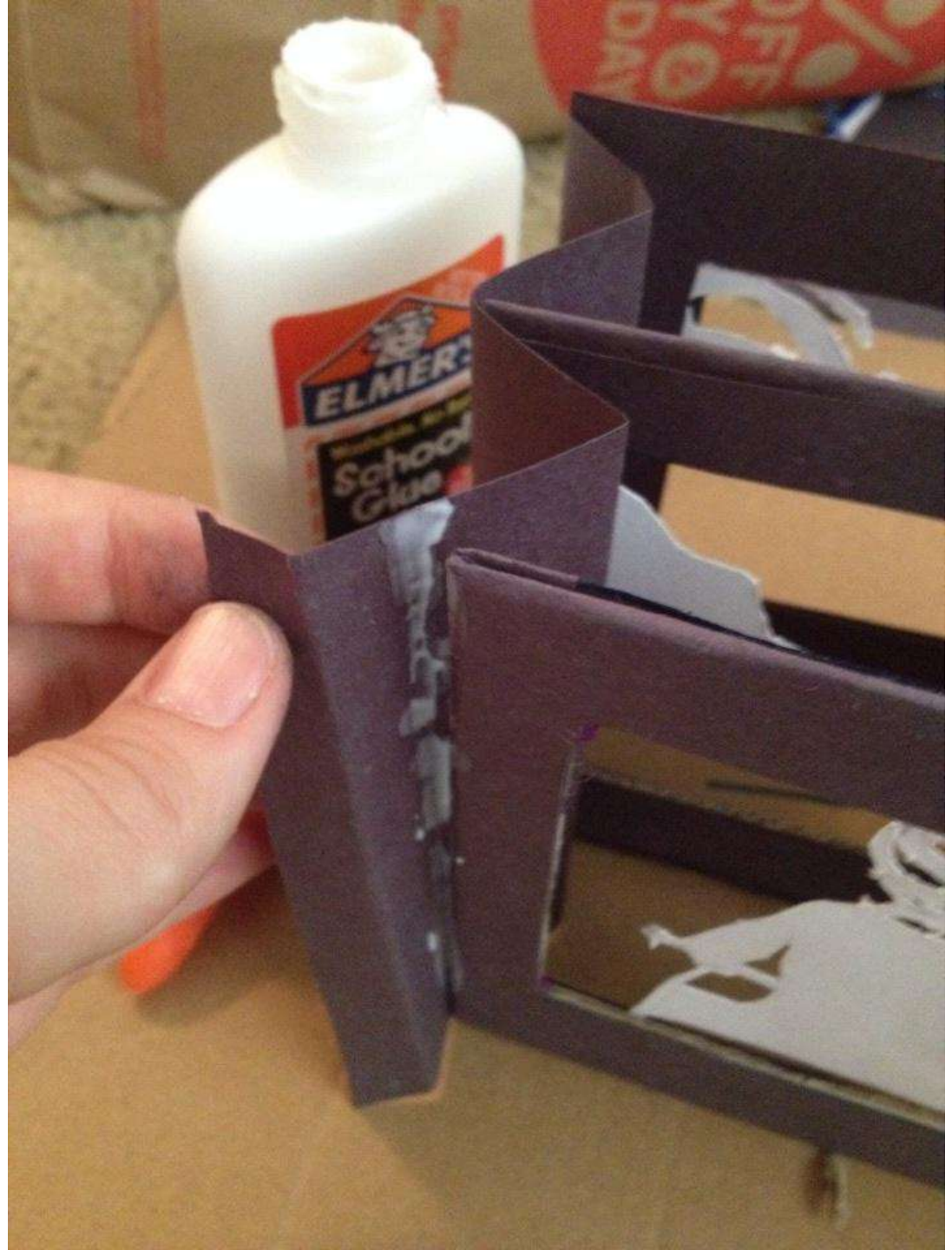
Flip over and cover the other side with paper



Make two accordion folded papers
the same height as the frames with
enough folds for your frames



Glue
frames
into
folds



Add any extras to the outside



Example: binding,
decoration, drawings