

Corinthian Column

Sturdy enough to use as a pedestal, this classical construction comes apart to reveal a secret inside.

(art + history)

Of the three ancient architectural orders originating in Greece, the Corinthian style is the youngest and the most ornate. Named for the ancient city of Corinth, it is characterized by slender, fluted columns with an ornate capital decorated with leaves and scrolls. The earliest example is believed to have appeared in approximately 425 BC at the Temple of Apollo Epicurius.

Adapted by the Romans (with modifications), this classical Greek style was most popular with builders and appeared throughout Europe, Asia, and Africa during the Imperial period. The Romans developed concrete and, though columns were no longer necessary as a functional support for roofs, they continued to appear as a visual symbol of the power, wealth, and influence of the Roman republic.

A stylized version of Corinthian columns can be created in the classroom with a few types of paper. Corrugated paper provides the fluted shaft of the column, and curled white paper quills provide decoration to the capital while, inside the column, there is room for a secret scroll or other hidden treasures.

GRADES 3-8 Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.

Preparation

1. Cut corrugated paper into 16" x 12" pieces (one roll will produce 75 pieces).
2. You'll need four pieces of card stock per student. Cut one piece in half into two 4-1/4" x 11" pieces. From those two pieces, cut a 1-1/2" x 11" strip and keep the 2-3/4" wide pieces. Cut the other three into strips approximately 1-1/2" wide x 11" long.
3. Cut posterboard into 7" x 7" squares (one sheet will produce 24 squares). Each student will need one for a base and one for a top.

Process

1. Begin by creating the base and capital. Create a ring by gluing or taping both 4-1/4" strips (half sheet) of card stock. Run glue along one edge of the ring and place each one in the center of a posterboard square. Allow to dry.
2. To create scrollwork for the capital, take a strip of card stock and hold one end tightly against a dowel rod or pencil, then roll tightly and as evenly as possible to the center of the strip. Release and repeat on the other



Materials (required)

Corrugated Paper, White, 48" x 25 ft roll (11214-1048); share one across class

Pacon Card Stock, White, 65 lb, 8-1/2" x 11", pkg of 100 sheets (11319-1021); share one package across class

Blick Deluxe White Posterboard, White on Both Sides, 28" x 44", 14-ply (13104-1006); share two sheets across class

Elmer's Glue-All, 4 oz, (23887-1004); share one bottle between two students

Westcott KleenEarth Recycled Scissors, 7" Bent (57624-2007); need one pair per student

White Masking Tape, 3/4" x 60 yd (23008-1060); share two rolls across class

Optional Materials:

Creativity Street Wooden Dowel Rods, 1/2" Dia x 12", pkg of 12 (60448-1212)

Roylco Rolly Scrolly Paper, pkg of 32, 7-1/2" x 35-3/4" (12640-1032)



Process, continued

end of the strip. For the first curls, a piece of masking tape is helpful to hold it in place until the technique is perfected. Curls can roll in either direction — to the front or back of the strip — and can be cut in smaller pieces, if desired.

3. Secure paper curls around the center ring, facing all four sides of the posterboard square. Secure by gluing or taping. Paper clips can be used to hold in place until glue is dry.
4. For the base of the column, cut the 1-1/2" strips in half to make shorter curls and position them around the ring on all sides.
5. To make the fluted shaft of the column, roll the piece of corrugated paper so the channels run vertically and place it inside the lower ring. Place the capital on top.

Note: for extra strength, apply white tape around the top rim of each ring.

Options

1. The top capital section easily lifts off to reveal an empty space inside the rolled corrugated paper. This is the perfect location for a secret scroll or other hidden treasure. We recommend Roylco Rolly Scrolly paper for the look of an ancient Greek document.

National Core Arts Standards - Visual Arts

Creating

Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Connecting

Anchor Standard 11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.



Step 1: Create paper rings and glue to posterboard squares.



Step 2: Decorate top of column with scrollwork created from 1-1/2" wide strips of card stock. Use half strip curls for a less ornate base.



Step 3: Roll corrugated paper and place between base and capital. The inside of the column is a great place to hide a scroll or other treasures.

