



**The  
Castle**  
418 FOURTH STREET  
MARIETTA, OHIO

# Diary Making Activity

*Use these instructions to follow along with us online!*

**Craft Description:** This is a project for children of all ages. It uses things found around the house to produce a simple journal.

## **Supplies:**

Cereal box or posterboard (or other thin cardboard)

Scissors

Yarn or ribbon

Any kind of paper (We will use standard size 8.5" X 11")

Strong tape (such as duct tape)

Ruler

Pencil or pen

Optional:

Stapler

Wrapping paper

Colored or patterned duct tape

## **Brief history of diaries:**

Many soldiers and people on the home front kept journals during the Civil War. These journals recorded everyday life and preserved those details and stories for future generations. Journals are valuable tools for historians to use as a written record of those who are underrepresented in written history – such as minorities, women, and poor people.

## **Preparation steps:**

Gather your supplies

## **How To:**

1. Open the cereal box along its edges and flatten it.
2. Using your ruler and your pencil or pen, draw two rectangles on the flat parts of the box that measure 9" by 6 ¼".

**The Castle Historic House Museum**

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3. Using scissors, cut out the rectangles. These will be the front and back covers of your journal.
4. Lay out both pieces of the cardboard covers with two of their 9" edges close together, but not touching.
5. Use your strong tape to connect these two covers. The tape should run straight down the 9" lines on the front and back. Leaving a little bit of room between the cardboard will give your journal space for the pages and a flexible binding.
6. Fold each of the pieces of paper in half, lengthwise. You should end up with pages that are 8 ½" X 5 ¾".
7. Using yarn or sturdy string begin binding the pages in your journal. You will do this by leaving about a 5" tail on the outside of your binding and then wrapping the string through the middle of each folded page and around the back of the cover binding. Continue this process for all pages, using one long, continuous piece of string. Do not pull too tightly.
8. Once all pages are attached, leave enough of a tail on your string to tie a bow to the original string tail you created at the beginning. This will hold all your pages in place. You can untie it later if your wish to add pages. You could also start a new string for more pages later.
9. Cut two pieces of 7" string and either tape or staple them to the middle of the outside edges of both top and bottom cover. This will allow you to tie your journal closed.
10. For extra decoration, you could draw on, color, wrap with wrapping paper, or cover in duct tape the outside of your journal.