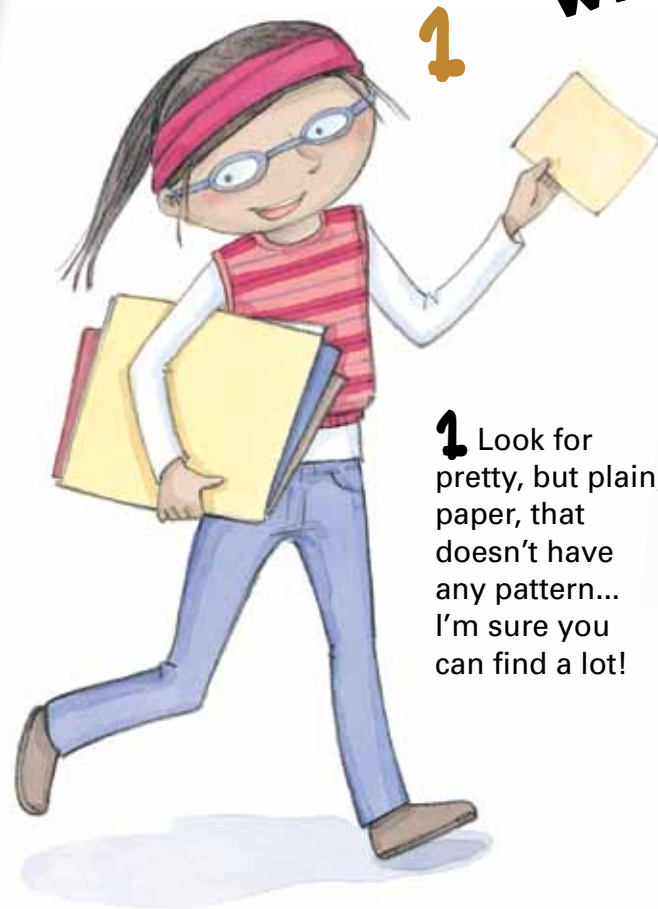Designing wrapping paper can be a career. Did you know that?

CREATIONS
with markers

MATERIALS:
Construction or recycled paper in natural colors, a white marker, colored markers, a ruler, a pencil and scissors.
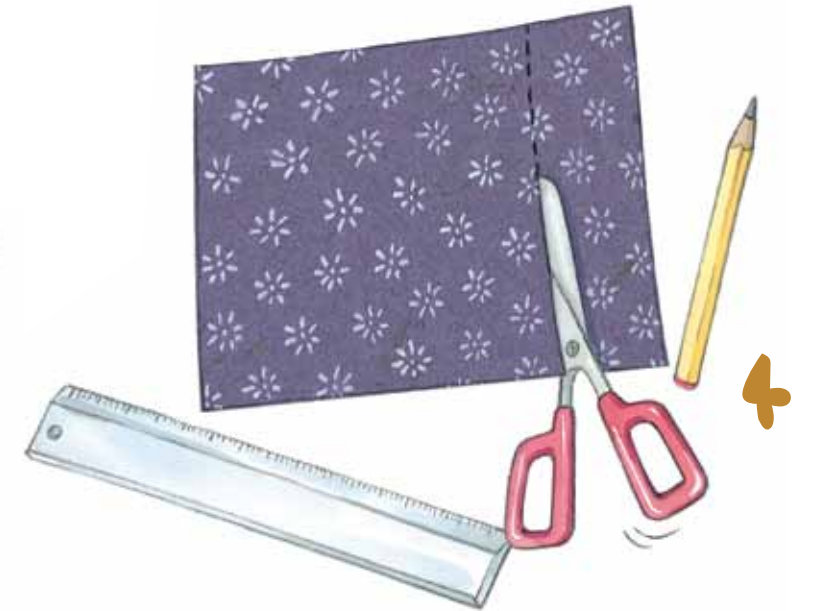
1 Look for pretty, but plain, paper, that doesn't have any pattern... I'm sure you can find a lot!

2 Take a piece of scrap paper and a marker and play around by making several small designs. Then you can pick the ones you like the best.

3 Then make your design all over different pieces of paper by repeating them over and over. A white marker looks great on dark paper.

4 After you've made a few, do you have any ideas for what to do with them now? You could line a box or use them as backgrounds when you are scrapbooking (see page 33). Cut them to the size you need.

You can transform a plain old shoe box or a cereal box into a beautiful place to stash your treasures.
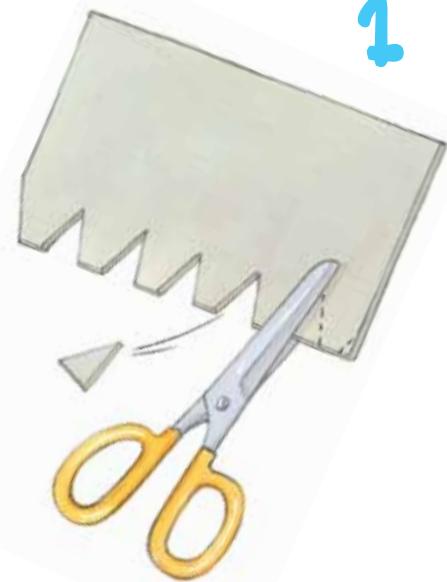
STAMPS
using cardboard

MATERIALS: White poster board, acrylic or plastic paints, water, flat brush, cardboard, scissors and newspaper.

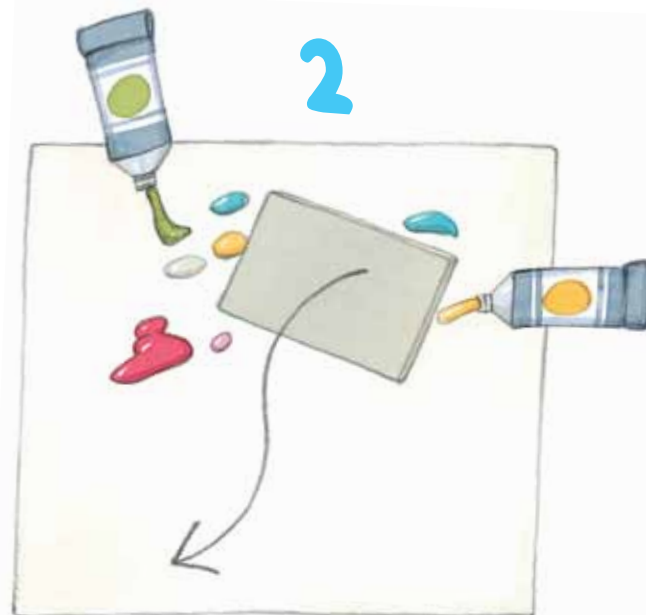For this project, first you paint and then you un-paint. You're going to love it!

1 Cut out pieces of cardboard in different shapes: pointy, flat, like a rake or comb…

2 Now paint a background onto a piece of poster board, using any colors you like. You could pour the paint directly onto the poster board and spread it with a piece of cardboard, moving your hand around in all directions.
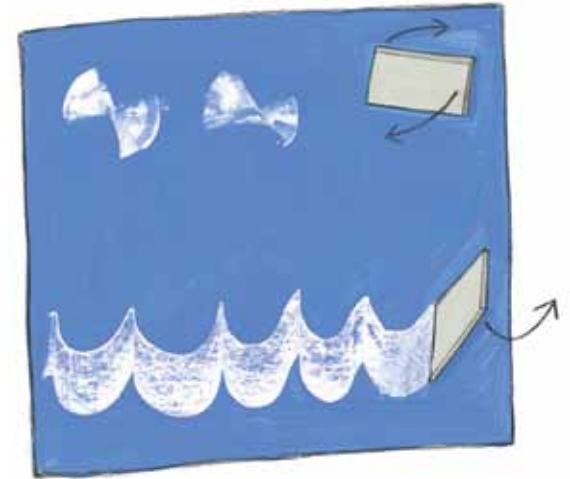
3 When your background is dry, use a flat brush to cover the entire surface. Use a color that stands out from what you used for the background.

4 Quickly now, before it dries, scrape off paint using the cardboard designs you made in step 1. Depending on how you move it, you can create waves, bows, stripes, squares... If you just want plain white to show through, skip step 2.

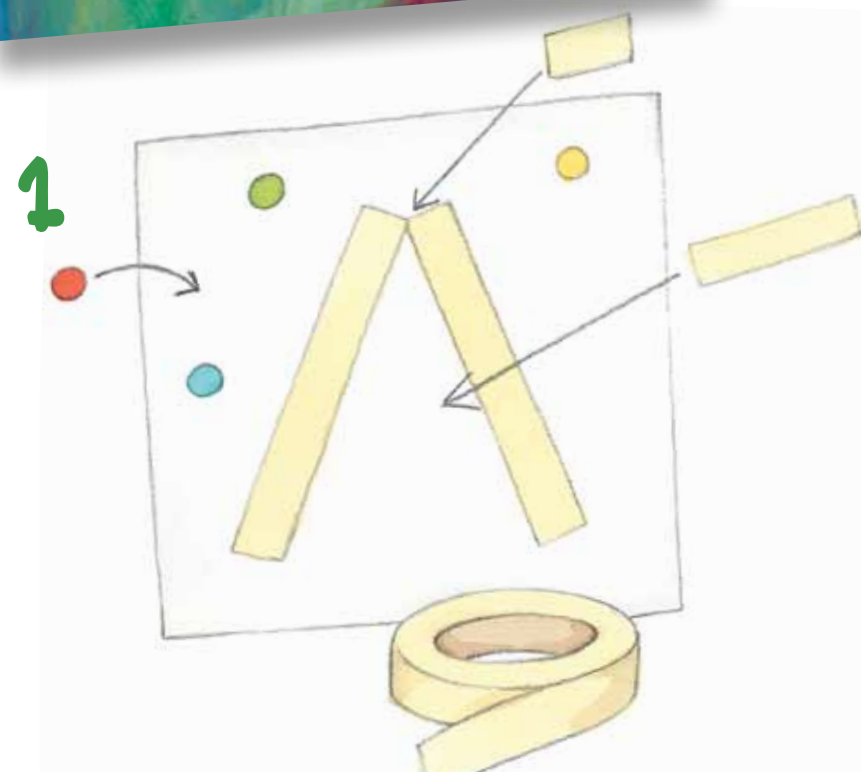Besides brushes and cardboard, what else could you use to make your designs?

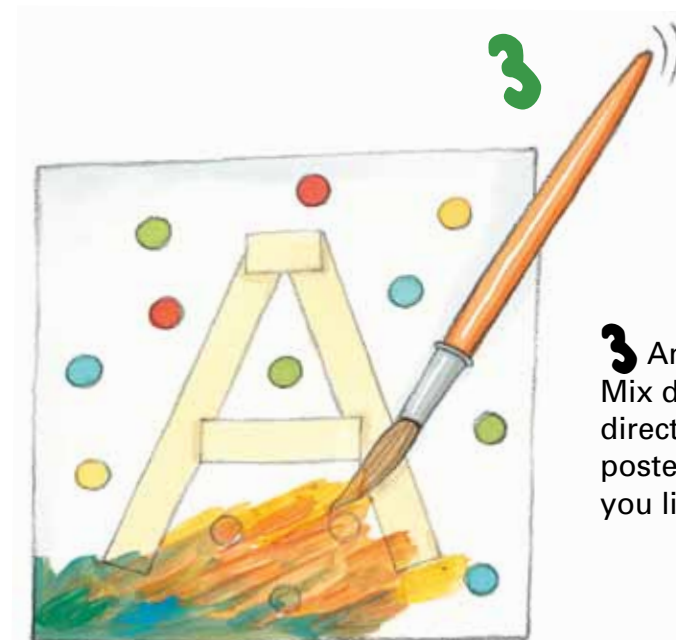**Sometimes you decide what you want to paint and, other times, what you do NOT want to paint... Take a look!**

MATERIALS: *White poster board, acrylic paints, paintbrushes, sticky labels, masking tape, scissors and a plastic tray.*

REVERSE designs

1 To get started, create the design or shape on the poster board that you want to remain white. You can use sticky labels or masking tape.

2 Then put all the paint colors you want to use on a tray.

3 And start painting! Mix different colors directly onto the poster board, however you like.

4 When the paint is dry, you can pull off the stickers and tape really carefully to make your reverse images. Cool, isn't it?

You could make the first initial of your name and hang it on your bedroom wall.