

# HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN VIEWFINDER!

A viewfinder is a simple tool that allows artists to isolate or crop a scene within a simple rectangular shape. By looking through the rectangular shape, the artist can choose which area of the landscape to use as inspiration. The artist can move the viewfinder closer or further away from his or her face to change the size of the chosen area!

## STEP 1: COLLECT AND ORGANIZE ALL OF YOUR MATERIALS

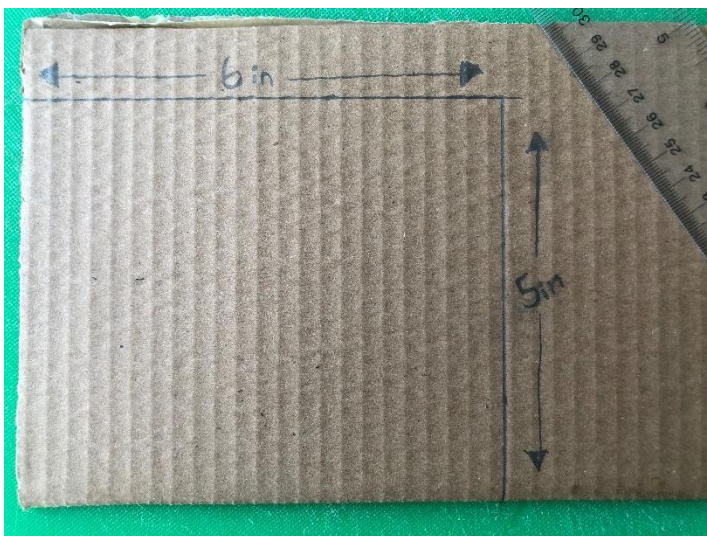


Gather the following materials:

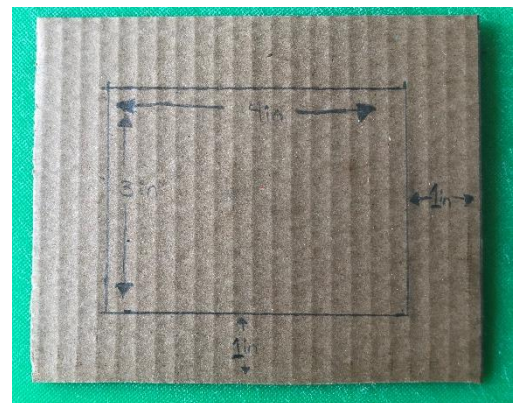
- Cardboard or heavy paper
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Scissors or a utility knife
- Cutting board

*SAFETY TIP: Be sure to ask your parent/guardian for help when handling scissors.*

## STEP 2: MEASURE



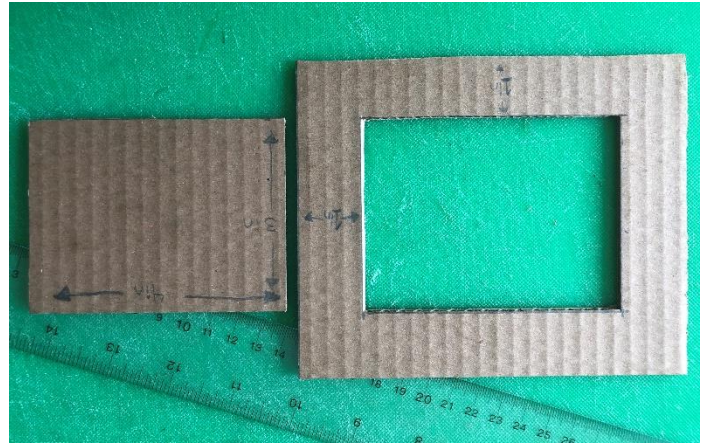
Use a ruler to measure out a rectangular shape that is 6 x 5 inches in size and cut it out with the help of an adult. Use the cutting board to prevent damage to the table. Within the rectangle, measure out a smaller rectangular shape that is 4 x 3 inches in size.



**STEP 3: CUT OUT THE MIDDLE SHAPE**

Cut out the smaller rectangular shape that you measured in the previous step with the help of an adult. If you are using a very large piece of cardboard, begin with the border and finish by cutting out the middle of your rectangle. Remember to use a cutting board.

**TIP:** If using a utility knife, cut away from your body!



**STEP 4: USE YOUR NEW VIEWFINDER!**

Hold your new viewfinder up and look through the opening. Experiment by moving your viewfinder closer and then further away from your face. What do you see? How does moving the viewfinder change your view? Using your viewfinder, choose a view to draw.

**TIP:** Try to create a picture that is not too busy—the viewfinder will help you focus on a smaller area if you hold it a bit further away from your eye.

