K/2 Engineering Paper Blocks

Play the following game: https://pbskids.org/readyjetgo/games/jets-bot-builder



Materials

- Thick colored paper
- Paper cutter (optional)
- o straightedge, cutting mat
- o Tape

Instructions:

Step One Select your first piece of paper and place it on your cutting mat. Score your paper vertically at the 1-inch and 2-inch marks and trim your paper completely at the 3-inch mark. **To score paper**, lightly drag your Exacto blade along your straightedge, making a light line in the paper. This will make folding easier.

Step Two Repeat the scoring and trimming process with each color of paper.

Step Three Trim the lengths of scored paper crosswise into 1-inch strips. If you have a paper cutter this would be the fastest method for cutting. I don't have a paper cutter (I know, can you believe it, a paper lover like me without a paper cutter?) so I trimmed it the old fashioned way with an Exacto and a straightedge.

Step Four Cut some paper "planks," 1-inch strips of paper that are not scored. They can be 3 to 6 inches long.

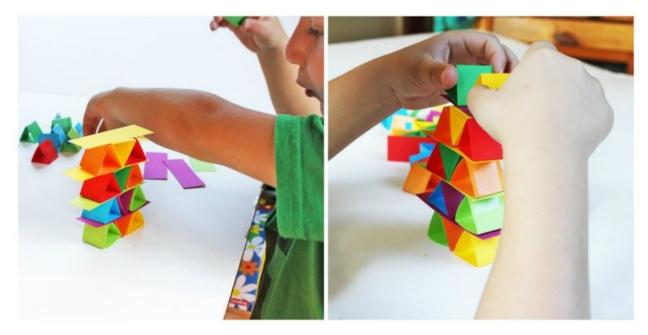
Step Five Fold your 1-inch strips into thirds along the scored lines.

Step Six Tape the open edges together to form a triangle.

Step Seven Repeat folding and cutting until you have a bunch of blocks assembled.



You're done! Now it's time to build!



Start positioning the triangles in a row alternating between triangles that are right side up and upside down. Add a plank or two on top of each layer. When you have a few layers you can test how strong your paper structure is by balancing objects on top of it!