

# Repurposed Wrapping Paper: Newspaper Potato Stamp Instructions

Hello, my name is Emily from the Sparks Library. The holiday season is upon us and it is time to start making, baking or buying that perfect gift. But what are you going to wrap that gift in? Let's take a look at a few fun, easy ideas that will make your gift stand out before the receiver even opens it.

## Step-by-step instructions

### Potato Stamp

#### Step 1: Supplies and Work Surface

Gather some old newspaper and clear an area for this project. Lay some newspaper on your work surface to protect it from paint.

#### Step 2: Newspaper Selection

Choose a piece of newsprint that is mainly text. This way pictures and graphics won't distract from your designs and patterns.

#### Step 3: Potato Prep

Wash and dry the potato you are going to use. With help from a parent or an adult, use a kitchen knife to cut the potato in half. Try to make sure that the cut is straight, because this will be the surface that will become the stamp.

#### Step 4: Planning Your Design

On a piece of scrap paper, draw the shape you want to carve. Use a design that's simple, such as a heart, a star, or a rhombus (diamond). Using a pencil, draw your shape on the flat surface of the potato that you just cut.

#### Step 5: Cutting Your Design

With a craft razor, gently and slowly cut the outline of your shape. Now turn the potato on its side and cut away the area of the potato you don't want as part of your stamp. The remaining raised portion of the potato should be your finished shape.

#### Step 6: Test Print

Using your paint brush and paint, gently brush a thin layer of paint onto the stamp surface that you just carved. Press the flat surface of the potato stamp onto a scrap piece of paper. This is the time to make any adjustments to your stamp that you think are needed.

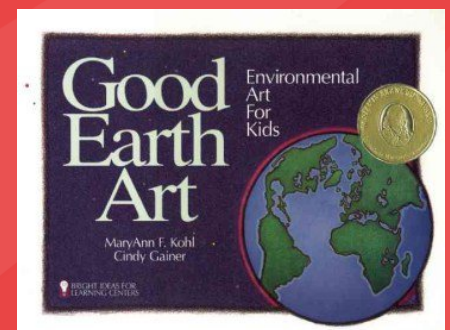
#### Step 7: Print and Dry

Continue brushing a thin layer of paint on your stamp and gently pressing it onto your newspaper. Repeat this until your newspaper is covered. Now that you have made this beautiful pattern, lay it on a flat surface to dry. Let it dry for 30 minutes to an hour before wrapping your gift. Repeat this process to make as many different stamps and patterns as you like.



## Supply List

- ▶ Old newspapers
- ▶ 1-2 Potatoes
- ▶ Paints
- ▶ Paint brush
- ▶ Cup of water
- ▶ Paper towels
- ▶ Kitchen knife
- ▶ Craft razor
- ▶ Pencil (or mechanical pencil)



Craft source: *Good Earth Art :  
Environmental Art for Kids*  
by MaryAnn F. Kohl, and  
illustrated by Cindy Gainer.