

What is a lapbook?

A lapbook is more than just a cardboard folder that has a selection of small booklets stuck inside.

It's an effective means of displaying and recording a child's learning.

It's a way of helping children learn by breaking big projects up into smaller, more achievable chunks.

It's more versatile than a workbook, being more hands-on and more creative.

It's a means of providing a personalised education; lapbooks can be adapted for each individual child by selecting the minibooks that best suit them and minibooks can be completed in a way that builds on each child's strengths.

Some of the different ways that children can complete the minibooks include -

- some minibooks come with pre-written answers that simply need glueing in;
- children can write answers of varying lengths, from a single word to a full paragraph;
- children can draw pictures, instead of writing, to show what they have learnt;
- parents can scribe for less confident writers so that the child's knowledge is recorded without them becoming discouraged;
- children can add stickers or clip art to the lapbook base for decoration and to add further information;
- children who don't complete all the minibooks can still get a sense of achievement by putting a lapbook together, even with only one or two minibooks;
- projects can be continued at a later date by the addition of extension flaps, or even by adding a second lapbook base. Bases can be glued back to back, or outer panels can be glued together.

Making This Lapbook

Necessary Materials:

You will need:

lapbook base (see below)

a good quality gluestick

double-sided sticky tape

Completing the minibooks:

Unless your children particularly enjoy cutting and folding, I strongly recommend cutting out all the minibook pieces before starting this project with them.

If a minibook is made of more than one component, paper-clip the pieces together or store them in individual self-sealing bags or envelopes.

Store the whole lot, including completed minibooks, in a ziplock bag or document wallet until the project is finished.

Each minibook is marked throughout the instructions as being either level B or level A & B.

Choose the one most suited to your children's abilities and interests.

Use a good quality glue stick to stick the minibook components together.

When sticking the minibooks onto the lapbook base, it is better to use double-sided sticky tape for some of the heavier ones.

Lapbook base:

It is advisable to make the lapbook base after the minibooks have been completed just in case children complete less minibooks, or add minibooks of their own design.

There are different ways to make a lapbook base: some people stick pieces of A4 card together; some people use A3 card folded into 3 & some people use square-cut A4 folders and refold them to create 3 panels. Personally, I prefer to use A4 document wallets. These come already pre-folded, all you have to do is cut off the sides of the pockets as shown below.

Activity 3: The Declaration of Independence
Level B

4th July 1776 was the day that the Continental Congress issued the Declaration of Independence during The American War of Independence. In America, this war is referred to as the Revolutionary War or the American Revolution.

Follow [this link](#) to find out the writing of the Declaration of Independence.
Follow [this link](#) to find out what is in the Declaration of Independence.

Watch this [song](#) to learn a little about the origins of Independence Day.

For a more in depth retelling

Watch [Part 1](#) of the story of The First Fourth of July

Watch [Part 2](#) of the story of The First Fourth of July

Instructions for minibook construction:

Fold the minibook into 3 along the lines indicated.

To create the flaps, cut along the black lines to the fold. These are marked with scissors.

Children write their answers under the relevant flaps, or they can use the pre-written answer labels.

Stick the section marked “Glue Here” into the lapbook.

Thre Declaration of Independence minibook



4th July 1776
Members of the Continental Congress
Great Britain & George III
The American War of Independence
Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Livingston, Roger Sherman, John Adams

When was the Declaration of Independence signed?	Who decided on it?	Who were the colonies declaring independence from?	It was written during which war?	Who were the committee of five?
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Fold here

Glue Here

Fold here



Cut out answer labels individually. Stick under the appropriate flap.

Cut out in one piece