

No. 15279

Celtic Design Paper

The Celts were a nomadic group of people whose ancestry and influence stretched from the British Isles to Galatia. Their history is rich with art and symbolism. For example, the Celtic knot is a symbol of eternity in which each knot has no beginning and no end. The Celts started as a polytheistic group but eventually adopted Christianity, which can be seen in the sudden change in art. With the new influence of Christianity, the Celts became masters at a technique called illumination. They took original manuscripts and rewrote them in a highly decorative fashion. They would include gold and silver foil for even more effect. The Celts did not keep written records of their history. Everything we know about them has come from their art and the accounts of other civilizations that they encountered. Following are a few simple craft ideas to get you started.

Ideas:

- Decoupage a picture frame. Cut out a simple picture frame from corrugated board or use Roylco's **22041 Economy Fun Frames**. Cut out images from the papers, or cover the entire frame with one patterned paper and glue onto the frame. Apply another thin layer of white glue to the top. When it dries it will leave a glossy effect.
- Dress up a your journal. Choose several designs to cut and paste onto the front of your journal. For a more personalized appearance, make copies of the included reproducible line drawings and color the designs with crayons, markers or colored pencils. Then cut out the designs and glue them to your journal.
- Decorate a report cover. Have students write a report on what they have learned about the Celtic people. Then decorate a cover for their report using **Celtic Paper**.
- Make a decorative box. Cover a tissue box or cigar box with **Celtic Paper**. Use silver or gold craft foil on the seams and corners for a professional finish.
- Make your own illuminated scripts. Have students write a story on a large sheet of cardstock. Be sure to leave a 6 x 6" space in the upper left corner of the sheet. When students have finished writing their story they can decorate the empty space with **Celtic Paper**. Then mix ground coffee with a small amount of water. Fold up a paper towel and dip it in the coffee mixture and dab the paper towel on the cardstock to create an antique effect.
- Make Celtic people with paper dolls dressed in patterned clothing! Decorate **52004 Card Characters**. Lay a paper doll on the back of your patterned paper. Trace the outline of the doll as a guideline. Cut out clothes with tabs or glue them on the card character. Give your doll a name and write a biography.
- Fold an exotic fan! Choose a piece of paper and accordion fold it in and out until you reach the edge of the page. Gather the folds together at one end and tape. Make a variety of different patterned fans.
- Design a Celtic greeting card! Fold one of the pieces of paper in half to form a card. Write a message inside. Make a collage card! Use a plain piece of cardboard and decorate with many different pieces of paper. Cut out unusual shapes from the patterns and decorate the card.

