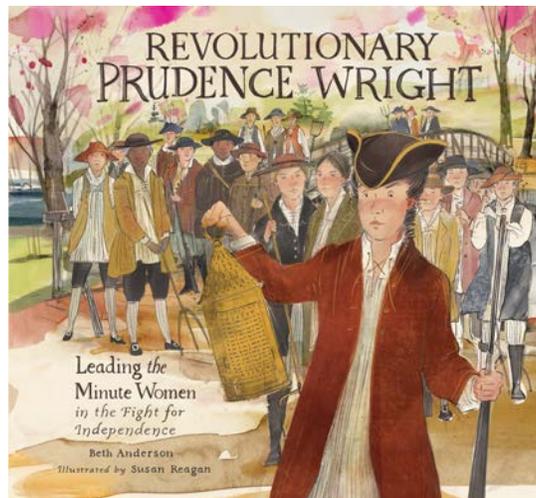


# Precious Paper

## Crafts and Foldables for *Revolutionary Prudence Wright*



***Prudence Cummings painted, snipped, and folded her precious piece of paper, crafting a “love box” like any colonial girl.***

In the 1700s, paper was made by hand and was very expensive. People erased and reused paper over and over until holes appeared. So when Prudence was lucky enough to earn a piece of paper, it was special. A “love box” Prudence made still exists today.

Paper art crosses cultures. Paper has been decorated and folded for centuries. Today we continue to enjoy crafting with paper.

Here are some paper folding activities for you to explore.



## Puzzle Purse

From the folds in Prudence's paper and research into paper crafts during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, her love box is likely what is called a "puzzle purse." According to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, these paper treasures were used to give small gifts, such as a coin, and to send special messages. The giver decorated them with art and often poetry. See author Beth Anderson's Pinterest board on Prudence Wright for samples and sites where you can find instructions and videos on how to fold a "puzzle purse."



Pinterest examples: <https://www.pinterest.com/bandersonwriter/prudence-wright/>  
Instructions from Origami Resource Center: <https://origami-resource-center.com/puzzle-purse-instructions/>  
Instructions from Sharon's Compendium: <http://sharonscompendium.blogspot.com/2016/02/make-victorian-puzzle-purse-for.html>

## A Love Box



Materials: square piece of paper [recommended for grades 3+]

This paper craft can be purely an art activity or a language arts foldable.

Theme: What "gift" or message did Prudence's story give you? What evidence supports this theme? Create a puzzle purse to show this. In the center square, write the theme that's meaningful to you. On each corner, draw or write a piece of "textual evidence" to support this theme.

## More Paper Crafts with Story Connections:

These projects are easier and offer an opportunity to make story connections. How can each item represent one of Prudence's character traits? Some links are provided. Many more resources are available online.



### Paper

about the tea boycott and how we can make our voices heard with choices of how we spend our money. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OcNcX0hEr\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OcNcX0hEr_s)

### cup:

Lantern: Talk about how Prudence lit the way for others. How can you lead? You can make the traditional paper lantern with a tube and handle. Or fold an origami lantern. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fr2gP3ckAUM>

Candle: Prudence would have molded candles as one of her chores. How do you help your family? <https://howorigami.com/cat/2512.html>

House: Prudence came from a family with six children. When she married, she had six children of her own. How do you think life in Prudence's home was different than yours? [https://www.123rf.com/photo\\_56946066\\_step-by-step-instructions-how-to-make-origami-a-house.html](https://www.123rf.com/photo_56946066_step-by-step-instructions-how-to-make-origami-a-house.html)

### Additional Paper Projects

- Origami Boxes
- BIO CUBE from Read Write Think [HERE](#).
- Personal flag
- Tricorn hat (included here)

## Make a Tricorn Hat

1. Trace the pattern 3 times on construction paper and cut out.
2. If you want, use a marker to add “braided trim” to your hat pieces.
3. Add a feather to one side by attaching with a large sticker.



4. Staple the three sides together at the ends to form your hat.
5. To adjust the size, tape or staple the ends further in.

*Huzzah!*

