

## How to...



### PERSONAL TOUCH

A bookplate is a label that identifies a book's owner and is usually pasted inside its front cover.

# Create your own custom bookplates

## What you'll need

- Scissors
- White block erasers (found online or at stationery or office-supply stores)
- Pencil with a new eraser
- A coin or small cookie cutters
- Ink pad
- All-purpose blank labels or name-tag stickers (from stationery, office-supply, or online stores)
- Baby wipes or paper towels
- Markers
- Rubber stamps of letters (optional)

## Instructions

1. Use scissors to cut some erasers into geometric shapes, like squares, triangles, and rectangles.
2. Use a pencil and a coin or small cookie cutters to trace shapes, such as circles or hearts, onto other erasers. You can also hand-draw shapes, like leaves, onto the erasers. With scissors, carefully cut these shapes out of the erasers.
3. Press your eraser stamps onto an ink pad and use them to decorate the blank labels.
4. Try combining stamped shapes to make pictures. For example, use squares and rectangles for a robot, or circles and an inverted triangle for an ice cream cone with a cherry on top (see examples above). Be sure to wipe the stamps clean with a baby wipe or damp paper towel before switching colors.
5. Other ideas: Use the eraser from your pencil to make polka dots, or your fingers to make dots and ovals (like we did for the purple flower and balloons pictured above).
6. When you've finished creating your images, use markers to add words, names, or details—like stems, eyes, or the lines on a basketball. You can also use letter stamps to add a name.
7. Allow the ink to dry. Affix the bookplate to the inside cover or first page of a book. You can make more as gifts for friends, teachers, or a book club!



**ECO TIP  
OF THE  
WEEK**

## HOST A BACKPACK DRIVE FOR STUDENTS

Every year, many students begin their first day of school without basic supplies. You can help kids get what they need—and protect the environment by keeping items out of landfills—by collecting clean, gently used backpacks to share. With the help of a parent or a school administrator, plan a drive. Make fliers with details, such as where to drop off donations. Many families buy school supplies in bulk, so ask if they would also donate items like extra pencils, pens, folders, and notebooks. After you've gathered all the supplies, sort items into backpacks and work with an adult to transport them to a school, children's shelter, or community center.



You can make  
a difference.