

ACTIVITY #2 - MAKE YOUR OWN 18TH CENTURY QUILL PEN

Materials:

- Large feathers
- Bowl or tub of warm tap water
- Scissors
- Penknife or craft knife (to be handled only by an adult)
- Cutting board
- Bottle of ink
- Scraps of felt or cotton
- paper

Directions:

1. Soak the tip of the quill (the hollow, spiny shaft of the feather) in warm water for about 15 minutes to soften it.
2. If necessary, use scissors to trim off some of the lower feathers so that you have 3 to 4 inches bare at the end of the quill.
3. An adult only using the penknife or craft knife, cut the tip of the pen in a gentle curve on a cutting board. The cut forms the “nib” of the pen.
4. The adult then cuts a small slit in the center of the nib to help control the flow of ink.
5. Dip the quill into the ink and blot in gently on the scrap of felt or cotton.
6. Practice writing on a sheet of paper by holding the quill at different angles. Re-dip and blot the quill as often as needed.

