

## Eric Carle Collage

for preschool age and up

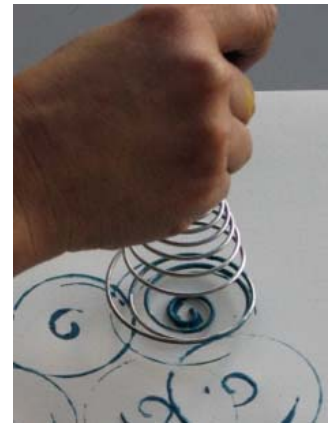


Eric Carle has illustrated more than seventy children's books, most of which he also wrote. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, probably his most famous book, has sold over 29 million copies. His collage style is unique and easy to recognize. He uses simple shapes and hand painted *texture paper* layered together to create his illustrations. You can make your own Eric Carle-style collage at home!

materials:

- Paper
- Scissors
- Glue (white or tacky glue work best)
- Markers, Crayons or Paint –  
depending on how messy you want to get

step 1 – Make some *texture paper*.  
Create wild and crazy patterns that can be made into spotted animal fur, stripy green grass and other textures. Be sure to fill the whole paper with color – you'll cut out shapes later.



3 ways to make your paper:

- ✎ Easy & Clean: Use markers or crayons to scribble textures and patterns.
- ✎ Hands-On Messy: Finger-paint your paper. (Turn ordinary tempera into fingerpaints by mixing equal parts liquid starch and tempera paint. Or try mixing ¼ cup tempera with 1/8 cup liquid soap.)
- ✎ Lots o' Tools: Use tools found around the house to stamp, scrape or roll paint onto the paper instead of paintbrushes. Try stamping with tools, like potato mashers, carpet scraps, pencil erasers or cotton balls using paint as your ink. Or use brushes to paint on paper then scrape the wet paint with old combs, forks, toothpicks, or toothbrushes to create texture.

step 2 – When your paper is dry, cut it into simple shapes and plan your collage. Try creating your own fantasy insect or creature by gluing down the cut shapes onto a plain sheet of paper. Add a landscape or background to complete your collage.

at home

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 Tips for Younger Kids: Cut the texture paper into strips 2" wide or smaller. This makes it easier for little ones to handle, even if they haven't quite mastered scissors. Single cuts can create squares and triangles. Also, show them how a square can be made into a circle by trimming triangles off the corners then rounding out. Developmentally, this is much easier than managing curves.  
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