

Making a Quill Pen

What you'll need:

Goose feathers (one per pen, and a few extras)
Scissors

What to do:

TIP: If you are using fresh feathers, the tips of the shafts must be hollowed out to remove any oil or fatty material. Then the quills must be thoroughly dried. A quick drying method is to stick the ends into hot sand (140° F) for a few minutes.

- 1 Remove any bits of feather from the feather's tip. Make sure that the tip is clean.
- 2 Make an angled cut towards the point of the quill.
- 3 Make sure the hollow part of the quill is free of any obstructions or extra material. If you find anything, use the scissors or a spare quill to remove it or push it out of the way. You'll need this space for the quill to hold the ink!
- 4 Make a straight cut across the point of the quill. You'll need a flat, straight edge for writing.
- 5 Place the tip of a scissor blade inside the quill at the end you just cut. Make a small, upward cut. This slit will pull the ink into the quill pen.

Your pen is now ready to use! Try it with homemade berry ink to write or draw.

TIP: Be careful in writing with pen and ink, since the ink can stain. To write with a quill pen and ink, don't squeeze the quill too hard. Think of it as more like a paintbrush than a modern pen or pencil.