

How to make a quill

A quill pen is a writing implement made from a flight feather of a large bird. Quills were used for writing with ink before the invention of the dip pen, the metal-nibbed pen, the fountain pen, and, eventually, the ballpoint pen.

Quills were the main writing instrument from the 6th to the 19th century. The best quills were usually made from goose, swan, and later turkey feathers. A quill knife was the tool used for the cutting and sharpening of quills.

Quills went into decline after the invention of the metal pen — mass production of the pen began in Britain as early as 1822.



Instructions:

1. Cut a straw in half at an angle. Discard one half of the straw.
2. You can decorate the straw with acrylic paints or paint pens if you wish.
3. Insert one or more feathers in the uncut end of the straw.
4. Your quill is ready to try! Use drawing inks and paper to write or draw a picture using your quill. Remember to clean your quill nib between each colour ink.