



Make a Quill Pen

Many of the world's most important historical documents were written with quill pens. Now your children can make their own, and experiment writing with a feather pen- just like Samuel Pepys.

What You Need:

- Large wing feathers (A pack of plain turkey quill feathers are good). Try to find feathers that are about 30cm long with a thick shaft.
- An art knife to cut the correct angle on the feather shaft.
- Ink in a bottle - can be purchased at most craft and art supply stores.
- Cutting board



How to make your quill pen

1. Cut the end off the feather at a slant. You will want to end up with a pointy tip (like a calligraphy pen).
2. Then cut a small vertical slit up into the tip of the pen. This will help the feather draw up and hold the ink for writing.
3. Dip the end of your quill pen into the ink well.
4. After you dip the feather in the ink, it should hold enough to draw with. You will have to re-dip every time you use it.

Encourage children to pretend they are Samuel Pepys writing an entry into his diary.



