

Norton Simon Museum

Art-Making Activity Design Your Own “Ruff”

A ruff is a decorative collar worn by wealthy men, women and children in Europe during the 16th and 17th centuries. Ruffs came in different styles, and the size of ruffs increased over time. Take a moment to look at the small lace ruff in *Portrait of a Young Noblewoman* by Alonzo Sánchez Coello (Spanish, 1531/2–1588) and the enormous linen ruff in *Portrait of a Lady* by Johannes Corneliszoon Verspronck (Dutch, 1606/9–1662). Which do you like best? Create your very own ruff inspired by these examples.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Alonzo Sánchez Coello (Spanish, 1531/2–1588), *Portrait of a Young Noblewoman* (detail), 1593, oil on canvas, Norton Simon Art Foundation, from the Estate of Jennifer Jones Simon; Johannes Corneliszoon Verspronck (Dutch, 1606/9–1662), *Portrait of a Lady* (detail), 1641, oil on canvas, The Norton Simon Foundation



Materials

- Coffee filters
- Scissors
- Clear tape
- Hole puncher
- Two pieces of yarn



Steps

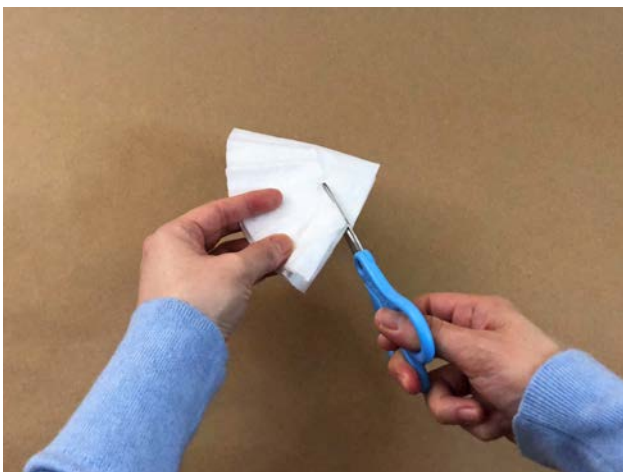
1

Fold one coffee filter in half.



2

Then, fold it in half again.



3

Cut off the folded point in a curved cut following the same arch as the curved edge of the coffee filter.



4

Open up your coffee filter and cut through the top of the circle.



5

Measure the length of your coffee filter trim so that it feels comfortable around your neck when the ends are tied together. You may need to add another coffee filter by repeating steps 1–4 and taping the second coffee filter to your first one to extend the length.



6

Repeat steps 1–4 with a new coffee filter. For a simple ruff, skip to step 9, but if you'd like to cut out a design for this layer of your ruff, fold your coffee filter in half one more time and follow steps 7 and 8.

7

Make cuts to the folded side and outer edge of the coffee filter to create a design, much as you would cut out designs to make a paper snowflake. Then, cut off the folded point as in step 4.



8

Open up your coffee filter and cut through the filter at the top of the circle.

9

Attach your second layer by taping it underneath the outer edge of your first layer. You can stop here, or keep going with more layers!



10

Once you have as many layers as you wish, cover both ends of the first layer of your ruff with clear tape. This is so that the layer will not rip once it is hole-punched. Then, hole punch both ends of the first layer.



11

String a piece of yarn through each hole and make a knot at the end of each piece of yarn to keep it from slipping out.



12

Then, tie your ruff around your neck for a perfect fit.



Travel back in time and show off your fantastic ruff to your friends and family!