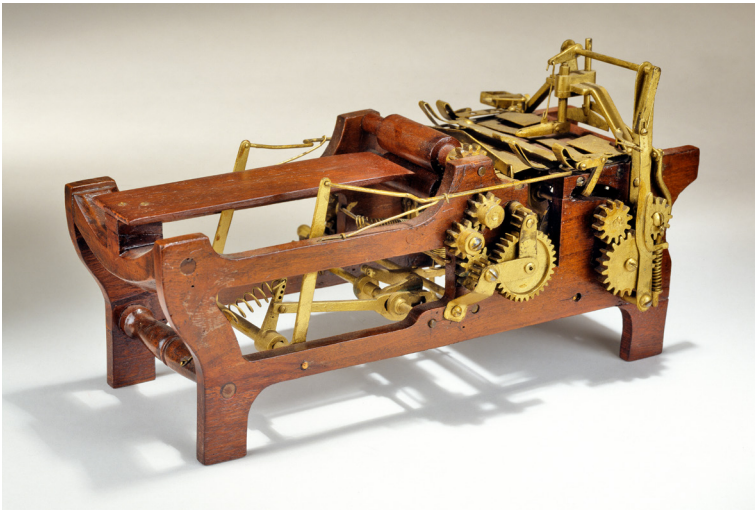


Paper Bag Gingerbread House

Like George Eastman, Margaret E. Knight (1838–1914) was always looking for ways she could help to improve manufacturing, or how people make things. In 1867, Margaret Knight moved to Springfield, Massachusetts, to work for the Columbia Paper Bag Company. By 1870, she had invented a machine that created flat-bottomed paper bags. It is the bag we have commonly used for lunches and groceries. Knight was 32 years old when she invented and patented the flat-bottomed paper bag machine and founded the Eastern Paper Bag Company. She would go on to create other inventions, and at the end of her life, she had 27 patents. A patent is the exclusive right granted by a government to an inventor to manufacture, use, or sell an invention for a certain number of years.



Patent model for paper bag machine invented by Mary E. Knight, ca. 1879. National Museum of American History.

Make a Paper Bag Gingerbread House



Supplies Needed from Home

- Paper bag (lunch bag size recommended 5 1/8 IN X 3 1/8 IN x 10 5/8 IN)
- Glue stick
- Tape
- Decorative supplies: construction paper, cardstock, ribbon, washi tape, circle stickers, gems, sequins, bows, buttons, pom-poms

Directions to Create a Paper Bag Gingerbread House

1. To create your gingerbread house, start with your paper bag, with the bottom flap side facing up as shown:



2. Fold the bottom up and tape it down to the back of the paper bag:



3. To make the roof of your gingerbread house, fold the left corner of the bag down to form a triangle and then fold the right corner down to form another triangle.

Tape the edges of both triangles to the back of the paper bag:



4. Now, flip the gingerbread house over to the front side and think about how you would like to decorate your house. Think about the shapes and colors of the door and windows. What patterns and textures will you include?



Then, cut out two strips of paper from the cardstock or construction paper. They should be wide and about six inches long. Add those paper strips for your roof and begin to design your gingerbread house. You can also think of a different design for your roof.



5. Experiment with all the materials before gluing everything down. Try out different arrangements to see which design you find most interesting. Below are just some examples we came up with—how will you design your gingerbread house?



6. When you have decided on your final arrangement, glue your shapes on to the gingerbread house.



Picture Books about Margaret E. Knight

Marvelous Mattie: How Margaret E. Knight Became an Inventor by Emily Arnold McCully

YouTube: [youtube.com/watch?v=e6czYYsCoog](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6czYYsCoog)

In the Bag!: Margaret Knight Wraps It Up by Monica Kulling, illustrated by David Parkins

YouTube: [youtube.com/watch?v=kNijqEHCdtA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNijqEHCdtA)

Picture Books about George Eastman

It's a Snap!: George Eastman's First Photograph by Monica Kulling, illustrated by Bill Slavin

George Eastman and the Kodak Camera by Jennifer Fandel, illustrated by Gordon Purcell and Al Milgrom

Run, Run as Fast as You Can . . .

To Sweet Creations at the George Eastman Museum

Dozens of cleverly designed and deliciously decorated gingerbread houses fill the mansion.

This beloved holiday tradition provides a visual and aromatic treat for visitors of all ages.

See eastman.org/holidays for details.