



INSTRUCTIONS

! Download the accompanying PDF to fill out and upload your own images and descriptions.

→ Step 1: Define the Community

Start by naming the community you are focusing on.

- Is it a neighborhood, cultural group, immigrant community, school community, or place of gathering?
- What name does the community use for itself?
- Where is it located?

Type the community name and location at the top of your guide.

PURPOSE



This activity invites you to document, honor, and analyze a community through history, place, and lived experience. Like the Chinatown guide, your community guide should tell a story about who belongs, how the community formed, and why it matters today.

→ Step 2: Develop Essential Questions

Use the Essential Questions section to guide your thinking and research.

Choose **3–5 open-ended questions**, such as:

- Who is this community for?
- How did this community come to be?
- Whose stories are centered here? Whose may be missing?
- How has the community changed over time?
- What challenges or opportunities does the community face today?

These questions should invite curiosity, reflection, and multiple perspectives.

→ Step 3: Map the Community

In the map section, visually represent the community.

- Label key streets, landmarks, gathering places, or borders
- Include places that matter culturally, historically, or socially
- If exact geography isn't known, create a symbolic or conceptual map

The goal is to show how space and place shape community life.



INSTRUCTIONS

→ Step 4: Identify Key Sites or Landmarks

Select 5–8 important locations within the community.

For each site, include:

- Name of the place
- What happens or happened there?
- Why it is important to the community
- Who uses or used this space?

These sites should reflect everyday life, history, resistance, joy, and culture.

→ Step 5: Create a Timeline

Use the timeline to show how the community has evolved.

Include:

- Founding or early presence
- Major migrations, policy changes, or historical moments
- Community organizing or cultural milestones
- Recent changes or future directions

You do not need exact dates, approximate time periods are okay.

→ Step 6: Highlight Community Growth or Change

If relevant, include data or observations such as:

- Population changes
- New developments
- Expansion, displacement, or preservation efforts

Numbers can help tell a story, but personal or community knowledge counts too.



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→ Step 7: Reflect on Meaning

Use the final section to step back and reflect.

Consider:

- What does this community teach us about identity and belonging?
- What does it reveal about power, resilience, or resistance?
- Why is it important to preserve and share this story?

This is where identity and values come through.

→ Step 8: Cite Voices and Sources

Acknowledge where information comes from:

- Family stories
- Community members
- Oral histories
- Articles, archives, or lived experience

Community knowledge is a valid and important source.





INSTRUCTIONS

Mini Zine Folding Instructions (Accordion Zine)

Materials needed:

1 sheet of paper (11 x 17 or 8.5 x 11 work well)
No scissors needed

GUESS WHAT?



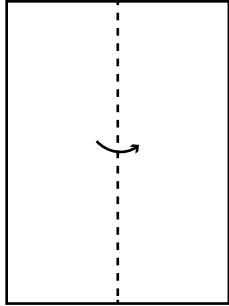
Accordion folds have been used for centuries, long before modern books existed.

This type of fold helps your eyes follow information in order, from start to finish.

Accordion folds are great for timelines because each panel connects to the next like a story.

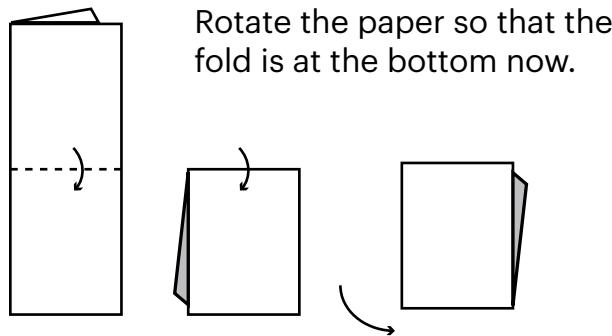
① Step 1

Fold the sheet of paper in half, long edge to long edge, so that it's tall and thin.



② Step 2

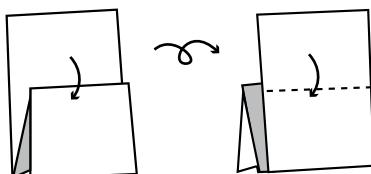
Fold the tall paper in half again by bringing the top edge down even with the bottom edge of the paper.



Rotate the paper so that the fold is at the bottom now.

③ Step 3

Fold the top edge down even with the bottom edge. Flip the paper over and fold the remaining tall edge so that it is even with the bottom.



You now have a zine with four panels on each side and a large interior spread.

