Craft and decorate your own paper version of a medieval abbey and play with the figures inside.

Abbeys were important sets of buildings where abbots were in charge of monks. Religious activities, work, eating and sleeping all took place within an abbey.

Did you know...

There were different types (orders) of abbey built in Scotland. All of them usually included a church and a cloister – a covered walkway with a side that’s open to a courtyard or garden.

The different orders of monks and nuns wore different clothes and had different religious practices.

- **Tironensian**
  - The ‘Grey Monks’
  - grey robes.
  - Arbroath Abbey

- **Cistercian**
  - The ‘White Monks’
  - white robes.
  - Melrose Abbey

- **Benedictine**
  - The ‘Black Monks’
  - black robes.
  - Dunfermline Abbey

- **Augustinian**
  - The ‘Black Canons’ – priests with black robes.
  - Inchcolm Abbey

Reconstruction drawing of how monks at Inchcolm Abbey might have looked.
Make your own abbey instructions

1. Print out pages 3 to 9 (print on just 1 side).

2. Pages 4-7 Cut out the spire walls along the solid black outlines and glue the pages back to back so that you get two double-sided walls.

3. Page 8 No cutting out is required as it’s the ground - the church floor and the cloister garden.

4. Page 9 Cut out the square and fold it in half along the dotted lines.

5. To assemble the abbey, fold the rectangular tabs at the end of the spire walls and apply glue to both sides of each tab.

6. Take the plain wall (page 9) which you have folded in half and push the tabs into each side of this wall. Press everything together, to stick.

7. Colour in your abbey and decorate it with your own drawings. One side will be the inside of the abbey, and the other side will be the outside of the abbey.

8. Stand your 3 sided abbey up around the cloisters. We’ve left off the 4th wall so that you can play with the abbey characters inside.
Amazing Abbey Characters

Create some characters for your abbey story. Cut out the shapes. Cut along the dotted lines at the bottom of the people and the top of the base supports. Assemble them together using the slits in the shapes. There is also a blank shape for you to design your own character.
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