## Victorian Fan

#### Background:

In the Victorian era, fans were not only used to cool oneself. They were also used to communicate with others during social visits. Usually made from fine materials such as ivory, they were decorated with hand-painted scenes, beading, jewels and Battenberg lace. The quality of a ladies fan reflected her wealth and position in society.

### Supplies:

- Template (printing on a heavier paper like cardstock works best, however regular paper is fine)
- Scissors
- Tape
- Glue
- Coloring Materials (color pencils, markers, crayons, gel pens, etc.)
- Decorative Materials (sequins, feathers, ribbon, etc.)

#### **Directions:**

- 1. Cut along the dotted line on the template.
- 2. Color or stamp your fan if you want.
- 3. Fold the piece you have cut out accordion style along the solid lines.

  Accordion style means that each time you fold the paper you will alternate the direction you are folding it.
- 4. Once you have folded along each line, pinch the paper together along the line of circles. Pinch this area between your thumb and forefinger.
- 5. Apply a piece of tape around the part you are holding to keep it gathered together after you let it go.
- 6. Gently open out the top half of your fan.
- 7. Decorate your fan with decorative items.



# **Victorian Days**

San Mateo County History Museum

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