Marbling Paper I

Wrap small presents up in your homemade marbly-colored gift wrap. When dried, this paper is like parchment, a crisp, crinkly, see-through kind of paper.

**What to do:** Place some newspaper over the kitchen counter. Fill the bowl to the top with water and add two tablespoons of vinegar. Place the bowl in the middle of the newspaper. Lay extra newspaper down to hold drying papers. Place doubled paper towels down and add a small piece of different-colored chalk. Crush the chalk to a fine powder.

Carefully lifting the towels, pour the colored powdered chalk into as many disposable cups as you need colors. Place a tablespoon of oil into each cup, stirring thoroughly with the plastic fork or spoon. Pour the contents of each cup into the bowl of water. The chalky colored oil should form large colored circular pools on the surface of the water. Now, carefully lay each piece of paper on the surface of the water and lift away.

Dry the colored papers on newspaper over the next 24 hours. When they are fully dried, carefully wipe off any surface chalk grains with a paper towel.

**What happens:** The colored oil sticks to the paper and makes circles and streaky patterns.

**Why:** Negative and positive-charged molecules are attracted to one another. The molecules of chalk (a type of calcium carbonate) and vinegar (acetic acid) and water and the surface of the paper all chemically combine to cause a chemical bond which causes the swirling colors to stick to the paper.

**YOU NEED**
- colored chalk
- half sheets of white paper
- 2 to 6 disposable cups
- hammer or heavy stone (for crushing chalk)
- two tablespoons of vinegar
- paper towels or napkins
- disposable plastic spoon or fork
- large bowl or basin (plastic or rubber is best)
- newspaper
- water
- cooking oil