



Elgin History, In Your Pocket!

The Elgin National Watch Company made pocket watches in Elgin for over 100 years.

Every smart dressed man had a watch in his vest pocket and many of those watches were made right here in Elgin. Follow along and you can make your own vest and pocket watch.



You will need:

- ✓ 1 brown paper grocery bag
- ✓ 1 image of a pocket watch (see page 2)
- ✓ Yarn (yellow or gold is best)
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Tape or glue
- ✓ Markers or crayons and a hole punch are great, but not necessary.

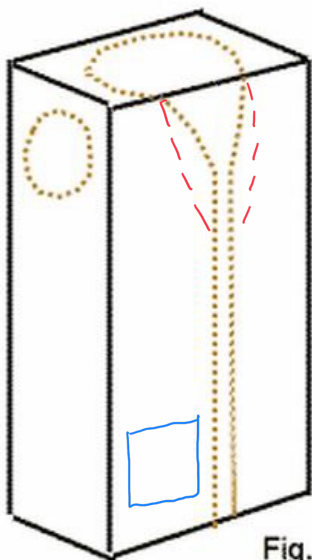
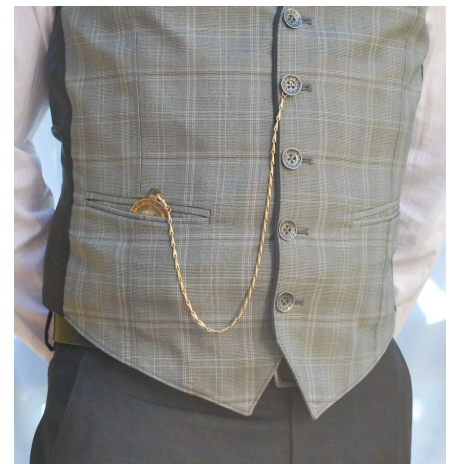
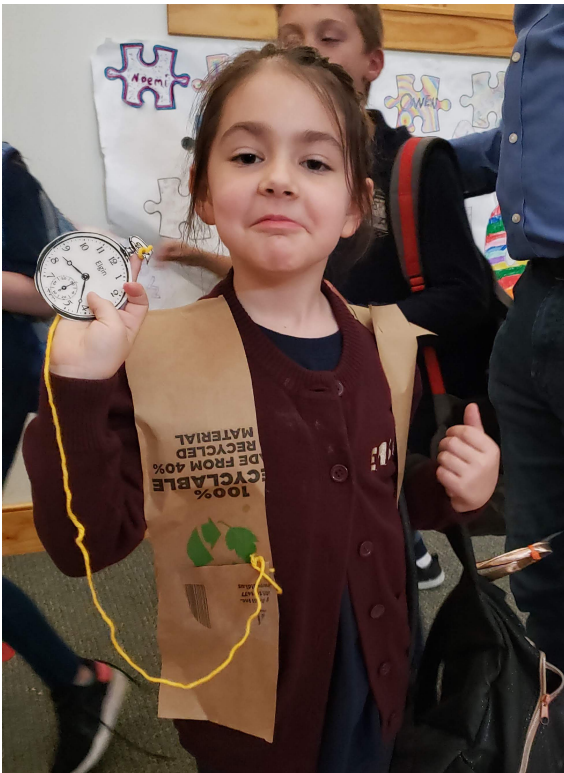


Fig. 1

Open up the paper bag and place it so that the flat bottom of the bag is on the top.

Cut on the yellow lines so that you have a neck hole on the top, two arm holes and your vest is open down the front. Make sure it fits you! You can decorate the vest. Men's vests were often striped. Draw or glue on buttons, if you like.





Fold the open sides of the vest down on the red lines to make lapels.

Use some of the scrap paper you cut away to make a pocket. Tape or glue it to one side of your vest. Make sure it is big enough to fit your new paper pocket watch inside.

Cut out the paper pocket watch below. Decorate the back of your pocket watch with fancy designs. Pocket watches often had engraved pictures on the back.

Use yarn to make a gold watch chain; the best pocket watches are made of gold! You can braid the yarn if you know how.

Punch a hole in the top of the watch for your chain, or tape the chain to the back of the watch. Tie a knot in the yarn to keep it from falling off.

Attach your gold watch chain to your vest and your project is complete!

Don't forget to tag the Elgin History Museum on social media and show off your project!

