

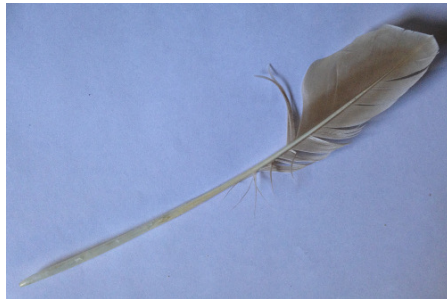
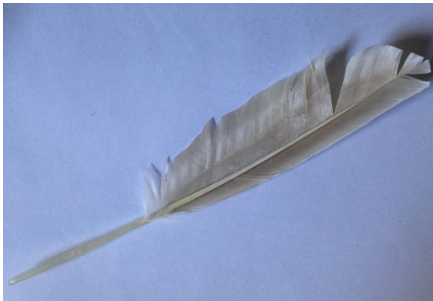


Merton Priory

How To CUT A PEN

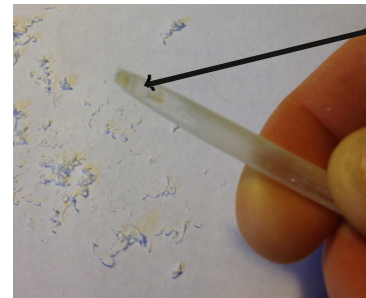
How to cut a pen

1. Get your feather. Goose feathers are the best. Really you should temper (heat-treat) it first to harden the nib, but it'll work without doing that. Follow the natural curve of the feather - holding it as a pen will show which way up!
2. Strip some of the actual feathers away from the quill - this makes it easier to write with.



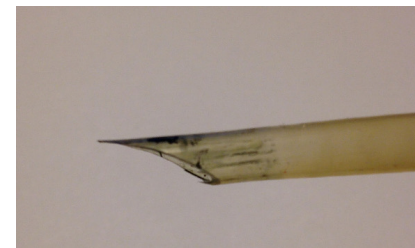
3. The quill has membrane on. Scrape it off with a knife.

4. Making sure your knife is sharp, cut the end off at an oblique angle.

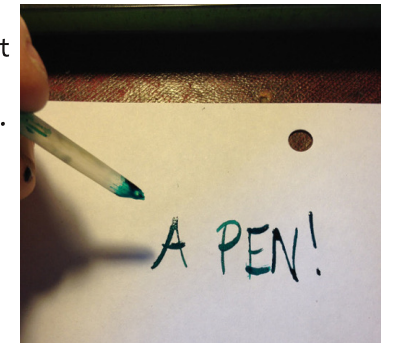


5. In the quill is the quick - this needs pulling out.

6. Cut a slit (a couple of mm) in the pen end. (A child may need help here!)



7. Cut your pen into a more refined nib. This is the fun bit... It's trial and error, but at the end of this, you should have...



Notes.

- There are some good videos on YouTube, and there's a detailed description here: <http://www.flick.com/~liralen/quills/quills.html>

- Knives must be sharp.

- Mediaeval scribes used slanting desks to write, as this allowed the ink to flow more evenly.