

PAPER MÂCHÉ

Materials & Instructions

Materials:

- Items to construct the armature for your paper mâché creation. An armature is a framework around which the sculpture is built. This framework provides structure and stability. These could include many items you might have available such as crumpled foil or paper, wire coat hangers, chicken wire, pieces of wood, inflated balloons, cardboard, various empty and clean tubes and containers or other useful recyclables.
- Tape, wire, string, etc. to connect pieces of armature. Ask an adult to help with hot glue if it is needed.
- Torn strips of newspaper
- Slightly diluted white glue or homemade flour and water paste of a barely runny consistency
- A container to store left over glue or paste in from one work session to the next
- A place or easily cleaned bowl large enough for at least a cup or so of your glue or paste and roomy enough to dip your strips of newspaper into with your hands
- Paint or other decorative finishing material
- A plastic covering to protect your work area

Instructions:

Prepare your work area by covering with plastic. This is a fun project to do outdoors when possible.

Begin to construct your armature. If finished piece is to sit on a base attach now. If it is to hang, attach a sturdy string from top now.

Begin to dip pieces of torn newspaper one at a time into the glue or paste mixture. Pull it through a couple of your fingers to remove excess. Apply to your armature. Smooth the surface of the newspaper strip with your hands. You may be adding several layers but you want as smooth of a final layer as possible.

You will need to let your work dry out between layers of newspaper so that you are not destroying or damaging layers underneath. Continue adding as many layers as desired.

Paint or decorate your finished construction.