



## Paper-maché

**Paper-maché** means mashed paper in French. It is paper pulp that is stuck together with some type of adhesive, such as glue or flour paste. When it is dry it becomes quite hard and sturdy.

### Supplies

- Something to cover your work space - plastic tablecloth, paper, etc.
- Newspaper
- Masking tape
- Paper towel or toilet paper tubes
- Paper towels and/or white paper
- Cardboard scraps
- Empty beverage cans or plastic bottles
- Paint or markers
- Paper-maché paste (see recipes)

### Paper-maché paste recipes

#### FLOUR METHOD

1 part flour to 1 part water. Stir together. There will be some small lumps. When you dip your paper strips, try to slide them off with your fingers.

#### GLUE METHOD

2 parts white glue to 1 part water. Mix together. The paste will dry clear and no chance of mold.

### Create Your Shape

You can use a can and a toilet paper tube taped together as the base for your paper-maché project.



Next, ball up a sheet of newspaper and tape over the tube. This can be an animal head, a monster, a person - whatever you want to create. By adding cardboard scrap details or more paper and tape, you can get the basic shape of your character.



### Add the paper layers

- Mix up a batch of paste and tear your newspaper into strips.
- Dip each strip into the paste and slide it thru your fingers to remove any extra liquid.
- Apply the strips to your character making sure that the entire project is covered with three layers of newspaper.
- If you do not want the newsprint to show through, you can use strips of white paper or paper towel as your fourth layer.
- Let your project dry thoroughly inside of your house, away from humidity.

Now it is time to decorate! You can paint your project or color with markers. You could also glue on any decorative ribbon or fabric scraps that you might have.



**When you finish your project, share a picture in Facebook messenger to Discovery Center!**