



Paper Mâché Sea Animals

Crafts

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WHAT MAKES IT MEANINGFUL

Creating paper mâché sea animals is a delightful and educational activity that fosters creativity, patience, and fine motor skills. This craft not only engages participants in a hands-on artistic process but also serves as an opportunity to explore marine biology and environmental conservation. As participants shape and paint their sea creatures, they develop a deeper appreciation for the diversity of ocean life and the importance of protecting our marine ecosystems. This activity encourages imagination and self-expression while providing a tangible, memorable result that can be proudly displayed or gifted. By integrating art with environmental awareness, this project helps lead to a meaningful day filled with learning, creativity, and fun.

TIME

Approximately 1.5 to 3 hours, depending on the complexity of the sea animal and drying time.

MATERIALS

- **Newspaper** (Free - recycled paper works best)
- **Flour** (Approximately \$2 for a 5 lb bag)
- **Water** (Free - tap water)
- **White glue** (Approximately \$1.50 for a small bottle)
- **A balloon** (Approximately \$0.50)
- **Paint** (Approximately \$1.50 per color)
- **Paintbrushes** (Approximately \$3 for a set)
- **Scissors** (Approximately \$2)
- **Bowl** (For mixing the glue and flour paste - Free if reused)



INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Prepare the Paper Mache Paste:** In a bowl, mix one part flour with two parts waters to create a smooth paste. Add a bit of white glue to enhance adhesion. Tear newspaper into strips, about 1 inch wide.
2. **Create the Base Structure:** Inflate a balloon and tie it off. This will serve as the base form for your sea animal. Cover the balloon with newspaper strips dipped in the paper mâché paste, layering until you achieve a sturdy shell. Allow it to dry completely, which might take 1-2 hours.
3. **Shape and Decorate:** Once the base is dry, pop and remove the balloon. Shape the dried paper mâché into your desired sea animal form using additional paper mâché paste. Once your shape is complete and dry, paint it with vibrant colours and let it dry fully. Optionally, you can add additional details with markers or other craft supplies.

RESOURCES

<https://www.redtedart.com/how-to-make-paper-mache-paste/>

<https://www.ultimatepapermache.com/best-paint-for-paper-mache>

SUPPORTS NEEDED

- **Guidance on Technique:** Provide step-by-step demonstrations for creating the paper mâché paste and layering techniques.
- **Supervision:** Ensure safety with scissors and manage glue and paint application.
- **Time Management:** Assist in keeping track of drying times and overall project duration.

OTHER THINGS TO NOTE

- **Drying Time:** Paper mâché needs ample time to dry completely between layers and before painting. Plan for extended time to ensure the project is completed properly.
- **Cleanup:** Be prepared for some mess, especially with paint and glue. Cover surfaces with newspapers or plastic sheets.

- **Allergies:** Check for any allergies to materials used, especially glue and paint. Use non-toxic materials where possible.