



Making Paper Maché

Paper Maché is available in craft shops. Paper Maché is also quick and easy to make. Paper Maché can be used to make geographical features such as mountains, hills, rocks and buildings for dioramas; masks for display and celebration; gift boxes, and models of animals.

Objectives:

- Teacher will make Paper Maché using available materials from the environment
- Pupils will gain experience in using Paper Maché made from local materials in the environment

Materials:

- old newspapers
- recycled a4 paper
- 1 bucket or large bowl
- large pan with warm water
- long stick, long spoon or manual whisk/beater
- white school paste or wallpaper paste
- oil of cloves (if available)

Directions:

1. Tear newspaper or recycled A4 paper into 2 cm squares.
2. Put pieces of newspaper into empty bucket.
3. Keep tearing paper until bucket is half full.
4. Get large pan and fill with warm water.
5. Put squares of paper into the water stirring to make sure all the paper is getting wet.
6. Make sure the paper is completely covered with warm water.
7. Let soak for 24 hours or overnight.
8. Beat the soaked paper with a whisk, beater or long stick.
9. Strain out excess water.
10. Squeeze pulp with hands to get excess water out.
11. Gradually add paste to squeezed paper pulp until the pulp is like clay.
12. Keep stirring and adding paste until the pulp is like clay.
13. Add a few drops of oil of cloves. This will prevent mold as your project is drying.
14. After your project has dried, use paint, shellac or varnish to preserve it.

Variations:

- Make a piñata with paper mache by covering a balloon with the shredded paper mixture, drying, making a small hole to put in treats and painting.
- Try making a mask using a piece of cardboard as a base, making holes for the eyes, and painting.
- Try covering a box, painting and decorating.

