**Paper Mache’**

\*paper Mache’ can be a mess. You will need a space to get messy. You will also need a space for your art to dry and be undisturbed

To do this you will need supplies:

* At least one to tree **balloons** (depending on size and breakage)
* At least a full newspapers worth of **news print paper** (other types of paper do not absorb the water as well)
* One **large bowl** or wide container for your mache’ solution
* Card board and the means to cut card board
* **Paint** or colored paper for design of the skin or top surface
* News paper or plastic for **table protection** and clean up
* Gloves if allergic to the latex in the balloons or glue
* **Glue** for the Mache’ solution (Elmer’s glue is my preference, but Mod Podge works just as well) there are a lot of different mache’ solutions and some will even be labeled as mache’ mixes. Over the past millennia there have been a large variety of solutions and mache’ mixes all of which will work to varying degrees, starch and water and even flower and water can and will work, just not as strong as a type of glue. With any mix with water the thickness or concentration of the binder will determine the stickiness when wet and hardness when dry.

**Concept: what animal are you?**

* What is your favorite animal?
* How do you relate to this animal?
* What are the attributes of this animal as they relate to you?
* What color do you want this animal to be?
* What general shape is this animals head?
* What other features of this head will you have to make (ears, snout, horns, trunk)?

How to Mache’

Step 1: preparation

* See materials list above.
* Rip or cut newspaper into strip. If you hold the newspaper by the fold, pinch with both hands about an inch apart or smaller and rip, most newspapers will tear in a strate-ish line giving you a strip of shredded papers. You can rip a section at a time to speed this process. All ripping or shedding approaches work, the point is to have a large pile (box or bag) of shredded and torn up paper.
* Mix your Mache’ solution (see **glue** above) about one-part glue to two parts water. All things water saleable, will dissolve best in worm water, though tenp. Should cool a little before use.

Step2: getting started

* Make sure your table is covered, or can be cleaned up. Glue solution will drip a lot.
* Blow up your balloon and tie it off.
* Secure your balloon either in a small bowl or hang it over your work space. It will want to role
* Dip a paper strip into the water/glue mix
* Strain of extra mix with your fingers
* Place the strip on the balloon and smooth down any rankles
* Repeat (dip-strain-place-smooth) till the balloon is fully covered.
* You must get at least one layer of paper over the entire surface of the balloon the first day you start. With each day after the balloon is inflated it is shrinking and will deform if the ‘shell’ of paper is not all-encompassing.
* If you can try to get more than one layer of paper on the first day, this will increase the strength and integrity.
* Let dry undisturbed

Step 3: Process

* As your balloon dries, add more layers. (dip-strain-place-smooth)
* You will need at least 3-4 layers of paper covering the balloon.
* Repeat for more strength 3-4 is minimal. 4-5 layers is good any more it will take more time to dry and be quite hard to cut
* Tap test for strength when dry. Tap on the dry ‘shell’ if it seems soft or loose, and not hard, add more
* When your paper Mache’ balloon is dry and hard you may pop the balloon in side. It might have popped already or shriveled away from the walls of your paper

Step 4: features

* Look at what features of your animal you want or need to make for the face of your animal
* Cut your balloon in half. Choose your bi-secting cut according to the shape of your animal’s face
  + Ex: a dog’s head might be more round than rats
  + Your balloon might have made a good pointed snout off the bottom
  + Your cut does not need to be in half, but can be at whatever angle you choose
* Add your features
  + For a snout: ball up some paper and Mache’ strips over the ball and seams. Use the Mache’ strips like tape and cover over all added parts
  + Add more for size
  + Card board can help for shaping a snout
  + If needed you can glue on parts. Note that thot glue will not work on wet paper, it will need to be dry for it to stick
  + Ears work best with a slot and tab technique, where you cut the shape of the ear including an extra tab on the part that will attach to the head. Then cut a slot for the tab to fit into, then glue in place or paper Mache’ to secure in place
  + Use whatever scraps for whatever you can

Step 5: surface treatment:

* If you want to paint, make sure your surface is smooth for best result, you may need more than one coat for full coverage so don’t add details till the top and last coat
* You can use colored paper or tissue paper for a surface color and texture
* If your animal has feathers or scales you can cut them out of paper or card board and add them on
* If your animal has whiskers use pipe cleaners or fishing line (poke holes then glue in)
* Feel free to use multi-media, that is whatever works, fake fur, cotton balls, feathers, string, beads, glitter, fake flowers, colored yarn, colored tape, etc.
* Add extras stuff.
  + Ex: a turtle w/ a green mow-hawk. A mouse w/ glasses
  + Fake jewelry or beads, ear rings
  + Bows, berets, ties, hats
  + Face paint or tattoos

Note: this “mask” will not need to be where able, you do not need to cut eye holes or be able to put it on your head

Alternative ask project: If you are not paper Mache’ing, you will be making an animal mask out of Card board.

**Card board masks**

As with the paper Mache’ masks you will be referencing your totem animal. So at that the first step will be to decide what animal you want to make. Then you will need to look up this animal and see what shape and shapes that animals face is. Look at what shapes you will need to make out of card board to create this animal.

You may use any type of card board you have available to you. Any box of any kind will be adequate for you to use.

**You will need a hot glue gun.** There are many other methods of CB construction, but hot glue is the best and the fastest. Note that hot glue is hot, and this means that it is hot enough to hurt you if it touches you or you it. Be careful not to burn yourself or others.

Another method that you might implement is the **slot a key** technique. This is when you have a piece with a tab, and you insert it into a corresponding slot or cut.

Know also that just because you are using cb, and it is flat with strait edges you are able to curve your cuts, as well as the flat plane itself. In other words, card board can be bent into whatever shape you choose.

Consider also that you may **use alternative material**s to make this mask as awesome as possible. This is to say, you can put feathers on a bird and fur and a wolf, use beads for somethings eyes and glitter as needed, if needed, yarn string and rope make for good hair.

Paint is tricky with card board. Most paints are liquid and thus will saturate the CB and could mess everything up. I suggest spray paint or multiple thin coats of anything else. You might not need to paint everything, colored paper can be glued on other materials, fabric or plastics.