

HOW TO MAKE A PAPER MACHÉ CREATION FOR THE ANIMALS AT THE NEW ZOO



Why should I make a Paper Maché Creation for the animals?

All animals living in a zoo need what's called "enrichment." This means that they need things to play with to keep them from getting bored! Our Keepers are always creating new, fun, things for our animals to play with, but we can use your help.

You can design your very own Paper Maché Creation to be used as enrichment by following our guidelines below. Many animals enjoy ripping and tearing into things to find their food, and a paper maché creation can be filled with all sorts of fun and tasty treats. Our Zoo Keepers know exactly which animals enjoy the paper maché, and exactly what kinds of treats go best in a paper maché creation. All you need to do is make a creation, let it dry, decorate it if you want, then **drop it off at the Zoo's Visitor's Center.** Our keepers will do the rest.



This leopard in Baltimore enjoys a paper maché creation made by his keepers!

What items can I cover in paper maché for the animals?

Balloons: when covering them, do not cover the knot end of the balloon. Allow that to stick out of the paper maché. Then, after your paper maché dries, you will need to hold onto the knot and poke a hole in the balloon, allowing it to shrink. Once the balloon is empty, pull it out of the paper maché casing. **DO NOT LEAVE THE RUBBER BALLOON INSIDE** the paper maché. Animals might swallow the balloon and could get sick or even die.

Boxes (Kleenex and cereal boxes, etc): cardboard boxes **MUST NOT** contain any staples, sticky tape, thick glue, or plastic. **REMOVE** all of those objects from the box before covering it in paper maché. Animals that swallow those things could get sick or even die.



A lioness at the Wellington Zoo in New Zealand enjoys a zebra-shaped paper maché creation filled with meat!

Cardboard tubes (paper towel tubes, toilet paper tubes): these work great! You can use these with the boxes and paper maché balloons to create 'paper maché animals.' Simply use the paper maché paste and newspaper to 'glue' them to the other items.

Any other items: please do not use any other items to make your paper maché creation. Other items can be harmful to the animals.

If you have questions regarding making a paper maché creation, please contact our Education Coordinator at bc_zoo_education@co.brown.wi.us OR at 920-434-7841 ex 102

How can I decorate my paper maché creation?

You can use non-toxic **TEMPERA PAINT** to add some color to your creation! Any other kind of paint might make the animals sick, so be sure to only use **TEMPERA** paint.

How do I make the paper maché paste and my Creation?

You just need:

- Water
- Flour
- A large bowl
- Newspaper cut into strips
- Newspapers to cover your workspace

DO NOT USE GLOSSY NEWSPAPER

Instructions:

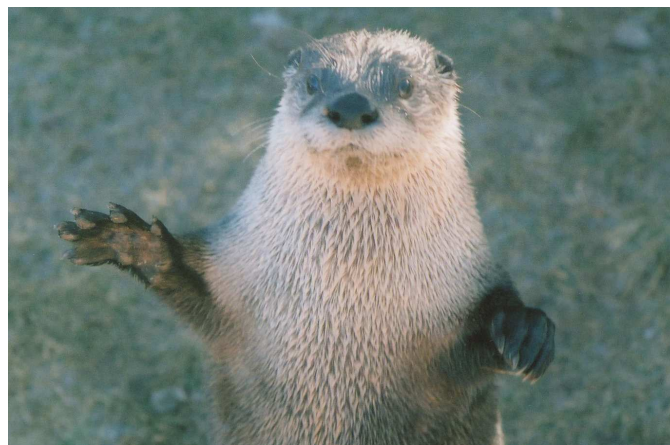
To make the paper maché paste, simply mix together **1 part flour to 2 parts water**. You will want it to be the consistency of thick glue, but you also want it to be runny and not too thick like paste. Add more water or flour as necessary. Mix well to remove any lumps.

Then, dip a strip of newspaper into the mix, run your fingers over it to remove excess paste, and lay the strip across your box, paper tube, or balloon. It's best to put on **MULTIPLE LAYERS** of strips in order to assure your item is sturdy -- especially if you use a balloon.

Allow your creation to dry for 12-48 hours. It will feel stiff and not sticky when it's ready. Then you can paint it if you'd like. Make sure to allow it to dry again over night, or as long as necessary, before bringing your creation to the Zoo.

DON'T FORGET: you should not put any treats or items into your paper maché creation. The Zookeepers will know what each animal should get, and they will be the ones to fill up your creation with an animal's favorite healthy treats!

However you decide to make your creation, know that the animals will be grateful. You're helping to **enrich them** and to make their lives better!



All the NEW Zoo animals, including Oliver the Otter, say **Thank You** for making a Paper Maché Creation!