



Arts, Creativity
& Entrepreneurship

How might you Engage Others with Paper Mache and Learning?

Sample Activity from MCCC CD shared with the NACCE Community
National Center of Engagement for Arts, Creativity and Entrepreneurship

While the featured example from MCCC CD includes an international partnership and Mexican Folk Art (i.e., alebrijes), paper mache can be adapted in a variety of ways for artistic/creative expression of problem solving, co-creation, learning. Here are 5 sample ideas along with a supply list:

Active Learning Workshop for Teachers

- Faculty create a prototype of a paper mache piece connected with specific course learning objectives within their discipline (e.g., Psychology creates a mask, History creates a map, Biology creates a brain, etc.). They describe their art/making experience as part of *creating excitement and vision* when they later **engage** students in their classes.

Civic Engagement, Service Learning and Social Entrepreneurship Outcomes

- Students, employees and community members each create a symbol of their hopes for the outcome(s) of their efforts (e.g., a student creates a sustainable, futurist home, a student creates the welcome sign to the government of the future, a faculty member creates a box for idea donations, a community member creates a depiction of a new food bank, etc.)

Entrepreneurship: Minimum Viable Product

- Students, employees and community members create MVPs representing new or next generation business products and then pitch their product (e.g., real and/or imaginary products and representations as they learn about different types of business design, planning and iteration).

Leadership Development Experience

- Students, employees and community members answer the question, “What is leadership?” and, through paper mache pieces, each person creates imagery of their ideals followed by a discussion of their insights and varied perspectives.

Paper Mache Supplies (20+ people):

Base Materials:

Newspapers:

- Approx. 50 full newspapers (to be torn into strips for the paper mache).

Balloons:

- 40-60 balloons (2-3 per person for shaping).

Cardboard:

- 20 sheets of cardboard (approx. 24" x 24" for shaping).

Adhesive Ingredients:

Flour:

- **5 gallons or approximately 20 quarts**
- **10 quarts (320 oz) of flour**

Water:

- **10 quarts (320 oz) of water**

White Glue:

- **1/4 part of the total paste**
- **5 gallons * 1/4 = 1.25 gallons (160 oz) of white glue**

***In other words: Flour 10 quarts (320 oz), Water 10 quarts (320 oz),
White Glue 1.25 gallons (160 oz)***

Painting and Decorating Materials:

Acrylic Paints:

- 40 bottles of assorted colors (2 oz each).

Paintbrushes:

- 60 assorted paintbrushes (various sizes for different detailing).

Markers and Crayons:

- 20 packs of markers (12 colors per pack).
- 20 packs of crayons (24 colors per pack).

Colored Paper:

- 200 sheets of assorted colored paper (for additional decoration).

Glue:

- 20 bottles of white glue (8 oz each).

Scissors:

- 20 pairs of scissors (safety scissors if necessary).

Felt and Cloth Scraps:

- 10 yards of assorted felt and cloth scraps (for texture and decoration).

Shiny Modge Podge or other shiny material for final layer/to create shiny finish

- ½ container per person (10 containers of 16 oz. each)

Protective and Cleaning Materials:**Plastic Table Covers:**

- 10 large plastic table covers (to protect work surfaces).

Aprons or Smocks:

- 20 aprons or smocks (to protect clothing).

Paper Towels:

- 10 rolls of paper towels (for cleaning up).

Trash Bags:

- 10 large trash bags (for disposing of waste materials).

Water Cups:

- 20 disposable cups (for rinsing paintbrushes).

Additional Supplies:

Popsicle Sticks:

- 200 popsicle sticks (for structural support and detailing).

Tape:

- 20 rolls of masking tape (1 roll per person for shaping and securing).

Optional Supplies:

Glitter and Sequins:

- 20 small jars of glitter and sequins (for extra decoration).

Mod Podge or Sealant (listed above, too, yet it is optional):

- 10 jars of Mod Podge or similar sealant (8 oz each for finishing).

Preparation:

1. Pre-Cutting Newspaper:

- Tear newspapers into strips approximately 1 inch wide.

2. Mixing Paste:

- Prepare paste in advance by mixing 1 part flour to 2 parts water. Adjust consistency as needed.

3. Setting Up Workstations:

- Cover tables with plastic covers.
- Set out materials at each workstation.

Instructions for Participants:

1. Forming Shapes:

- Inflate balloons and/or use cardboard, newspaper, popsicle sticks, and tape to create the base shape and additional parts/shapes.
2. **Applying Paper Mache:**
 - Dip newspaper strips in paste, remove excess paste, and apply to the form.
 - Layer until the desired thickness is achieved.
 3. **Drying:**
 - Allow the paper mache to dry completely (minimum overnight drying recommended).
 4. **Decorating:**
 - Use paint, markers, crayons, colored paper, felt, and other materials to decorate once dry.
 5. **For Shine, coat with Shiny Modge Podge or other material**

This supplies list ensures that each participant has everything needed to create a unique paper mache shape and have a fun, creative experience.

For more information on available tools/experiences and the internal MCCC CD partnership between the Maricopa Center for Learning and Innovation (MCLI) and Phoenix Forge (makerspace powered by GateWay Community College), please contact:

Dr. Caron Sada
MCLI Innovation and Entrepreneurship Programming, MCCC CD
Psychology Faculty and Division Chair, Behavioral Sciences, Paradise Valley Community College
caron.sada@paradisevalley.edu