

## Objective

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to create your own paper mache artwork and understand the history and cultural significance of this art form.

## Materials and Prep

- Newspaper
- Water
- Flour
- Bowl
- Mixing spoon
- Paints
- Paintbrushes
- Apron or old clothes
- Table cover or plastic sheet

Make sure you have a clean and clear workspace before starting the activities.

## Activities

- **Create Paper Mache Paste:** Mix equal parts of flour and water in a bowl until you have a smooth, runny consistency.
- **Tear Newspaper Strips:** Rip newspaper into long, thin strips. These will be used to layer and build your paper mache sculpture.
- **Build Your Sculpture:** Start with a base shape using crumpled newspaper or a balloon. Dip the newspaper strips into the paper mache paste and layer them onto the base shape. Continue layering until you have the desired form.
- **Dry and Harden:** Allow your paper mache sculpture to dry completely. This may take a day or two depending on the size and thickness of your creation.
- **Paint and Decorate:** Once your sculpture is dry, use paints and brushes to add color and details. Let your creativity shine!
- **Show and Tell:** Share your finished paper mache artwork with your family and friends. Explain the process and what inspired your creation.

## Talking Points

- **What is Paper Mache?** - "Paper mache is an art technique where you use strips of paper and a special paste to create sculptures and objects."
- **History of Paper Mache** - "Paper mache has been around for hundreds of years! It was first used in ancient Egypt and later became popular in Europe during the Renaissance."
- **Cultural Significance** - "Paper mache is used in many different cultures to create masks, puppets, and decorations for festivals and celebrations."
- **Why do we use Newspaper?** - "Newspaper is a great material for paper mache because it's easy to tear and it absorbs the paste well."
- **How does Paper Mache Paste work?** - "The paste helps the newspaper strips stick together and harden when it dries, creating a strong structure for your sculpture."
- **Why is it important to let it dry?** - "Drying allows the paper mache to become hard and sturdy, so it can last for a long time."
- **Why is painting important?** - "Painting adds color and personality to your paper mache artwork. It

helps bring your creation to life!"