



Y4 Art – 3D

What is Papier mâché

Papier mâché or paper mache is a popular crafting technique that uses paper and a paste to create a variety of objects. The method is named after the French term for “chewed paper,” which makes sense given the steps needed for any paper mache project.

Paper mache is the layering of moistened paper and other materials onto a blank surface like a balloon. The adhesive used to wet the paper acts as a binding agent. As the paper dries, the outer shell hardens, which can then be painted and decorated.

How is it made?

The principles behind paper mache are simple: cut some paper into manageable strips, moisten the strips with a pre-made adhesive, then smooth the paper on a surface.

Key Tips

- Layer the strips of paper in a cross-hatched pattern
- Use at least three layers of paper for durability
- All it to dry completely before painting

