

ANIMALS AT HOME

STEP 1: COLLECT AND ORGANIZE ALL OF YOUR MATERIALS

Gather the following materials:



- Newspaper or other type of heavy paper (various amounts)
- Sketch paper and pencil
- Masking tape
- Water containers
- Medium-sized paint brushes
- Paper towel
- Smock
- Paint tray (any recycled container with a slight edge or lip is fine)
- Acrylic paints: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, white, black, brown (your choice)

Clear off a large, flat workspace (like a kitchen table) and cover any surface with paper or plastic. Put on your smock or painting clothes.

TIP: Acrylic paint is very difficult to remove from clothing or surfaces once dried.

STEP 2: SKETCH OUT THE SHAPE OF YOUR ANIMAL

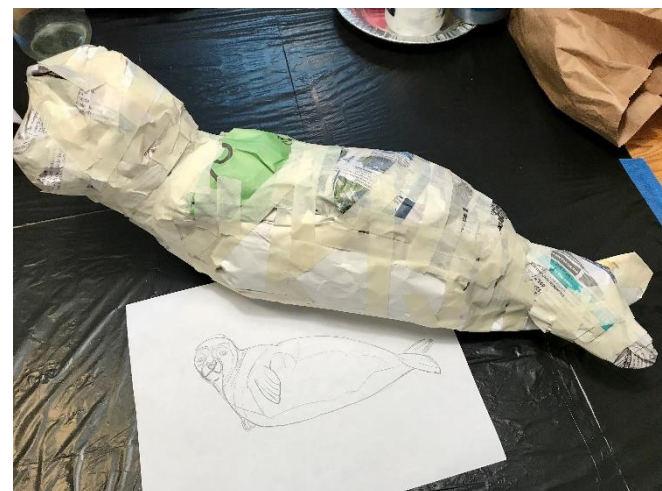
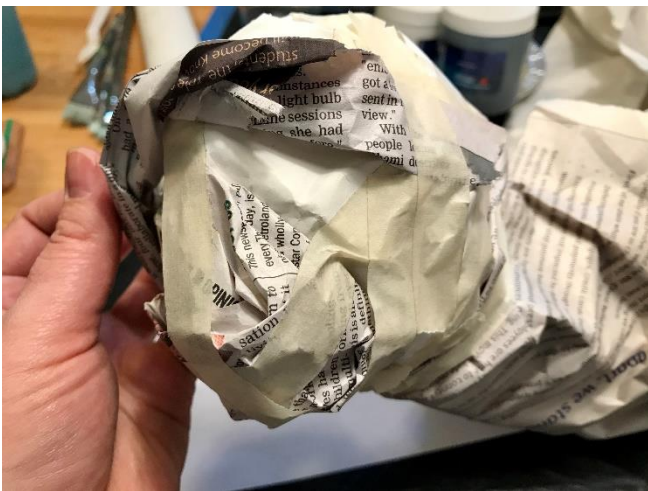
Close your eyes and imagine the shapes and colours of your animal. Sit down and draw out the basic outline of your animal. You can use this sketch as a reference when you start building your sculpture.

TIP: Don't worry about the details right now, just concentrate on creating a basic depiction of your animal.



STEP 3: BEGIN FORMING YOUR ANIMAL SHAPE

Using newspaper or other scrap paper (even paper bags will work), begin scrunching sheets into balls and stuffing them together. You will use these paper balls to form the basic shape of your animal. Use your hands to tighten or pinch the paper where there are breaks in the shape (for example where the head meets the body, since the neck portion is narrower). Secure these curves by using masking tape to hold the general shape together. Make sure you are comfortable with placement before securing with tape, since it is very difficult to take tape off without ripping the paper. Make sure to seal any open edges with tape. When you are happy with the basic shape of your animal, make sure the sculpture can sit upright without falling over.

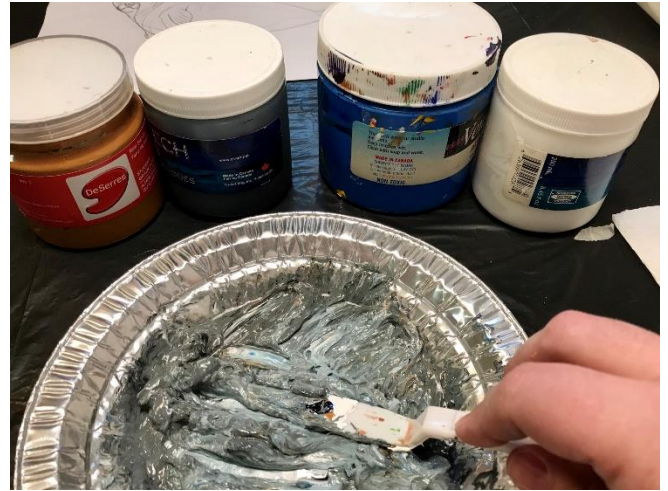


TIP: Your sculpture doesn't have to be as big as the example in the photographs. The size will depend on how much paper you use.

STEP 4: PAINT A BASE LAYER

Will you paint your animal realistically or use your imagination to make it any colour you like? Whichever you choose, begin by painting a base colour over your entire sculpture surface. Be sure to wet your brush before picking up the paint. Take your time getting into all of the nooks and crannies of your paper. This will help ensure that your sculpture appears fully coloured. Once you have finished painting, set the paper sculpture aside to dry completely.

TIP: Don't add too much water to your paint. Remember, since you are covering the paper, it can get soggy and rip easily. Also, be careful not to crush your shapes by pressing too hard into them with your brush.



STEP 5: ADD DETAILS WITH PAINT

Think carefully about your chosen animal. What different colours can you find in its pelt, scales or skin? Are there patterns, textures or shapes you can find? (If you're having trouble imagining the animal, you can search for an image online.) You can add legs, arms and paws by painting onto the surface of your animal. Begin by mixing different shades of paint and applying them over your base layer. Be sure to wash your brush between colours and you may want to let your paper dry a bit if you find your paints are getting muddy. Repeat this step until you've added as many details as you like.



TIP: Apply your layers from darkest to lightest, finishing with yellows, white or other light colours on the very top layer. This will allow your brighter colours to remain visible.

STEP 6: COVER YOUR BIRCH TREE WITH MODELLING CLAY

Wait for your animal sculpture to dry completely, then go back and add highlights and details like fur, whiskers, eyes, teeth, and any other details specific to your chosen animal, such as patterns or stripes. Pose your new friend in an imaginary landscape and snap a photo.

CHALLENGE YOURSELF:

Create an imaginary landscape for your animal! Research what sort of habitat it lives in.



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