

Paper Mâché Seagull



This is a fun and messy project, so collect some newspapers, cover your work table and prepare to get your hands full of homemade paste. You can make simple paper mache paste by mixing one part flour with one part water. Or you can use other methods of making paste.

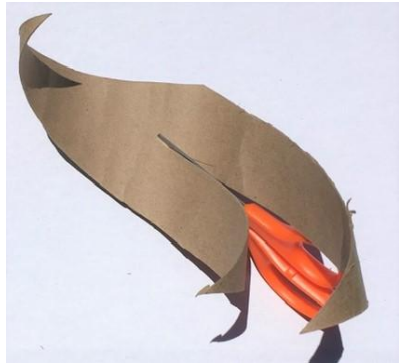
Simple instructions with videos can be seen here:

<https://www.wikihow.com/Create-Papier-M%C3%A2ch%C3%A9>

Again, I used an empty toilet tissue tube for my basic structure – to get pointy wings like a gull, tore strips of newspaper and mixed up my paste.



Then I cut the tube along the spiral line. It can be torn but sometimes it doesn't come apart very neatly. Then I cut the tube in half, length-wise to get two pieces. One piece for the body, the other for wings.

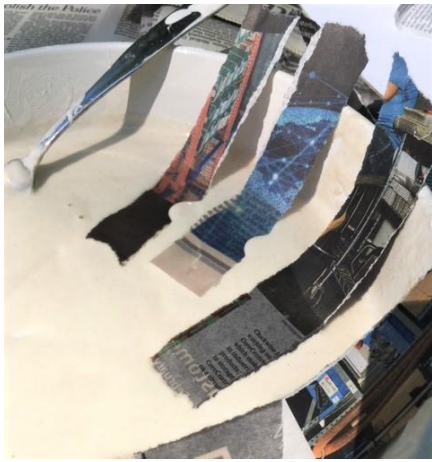


Put some glue in the middle of one piece and glue the other piece cross-wise on top of it.



Next, lay some of your paper strips in your bowl of paste. Wipe the excess paste off the strip by pulling it over the edge of the bowl. The wetter the seagull becomes, the longer it takes to dry. Apply the strips to your seagull, wrapping to

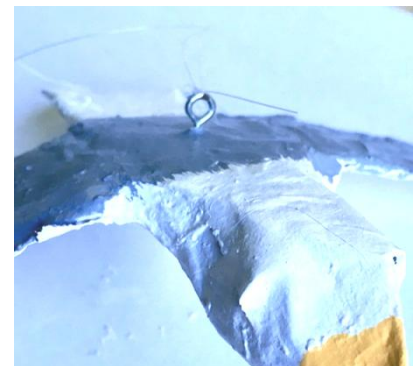
Keep those wingtips and beak pointy.



You can add some dimension to your gull by **crumpling or folding** some **newspaper pieces**, then **criss-crossing strips over it to hold it in place**. Smooth out your pasted strips and only use enough strips to cover the cardboard and “build” your bird. I supported my wings to keep them upturned until the summer sun and breezes dried it hard.



Then your piece is ready to paint. I used acrylics; glossy white for the body, then mixed with a bit of black for the gray wings of a herring gull, with black wing tips and a yellow beak. A couple of coats cover the newspaper, but even if the newsprint shows through it looks great. Make several to hang together or make a mobile. Wings curled up or down is your choice.



A tiny screw eye works in built-up birds, though some added glue will help hold it in place. Or you can hot glue an opened paper clip to the back and use the upright piece to attach string or monofilament. Yarn and glue will work as well.

Have fun, experiment with other kinds of birds, and remember that the best place to look for a bird is in its home **HABITAT!**