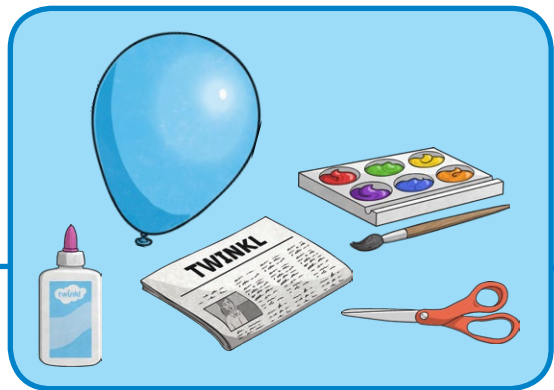


Make Papier-Mache Planets

Mix science and art by making these great papier maché planets.

What you will need:

- Lots of Newspaper
- white glue
- Water
- Bowl (for the watery glue)
- 1 balloon per planet to be made
- Paints and paintbrushes once they are dry
- Scissors
- Table covers and aprons/old shirts to wear
- If you are making a planet with rings, then you will need some cardboard and masking tape too.



Instructions:

1. Cover your work surface with newspaper or a protective cover and yourself with an old shirt or an apron – this is going to get messy!
2. In a bowl, mix glue with water so it is the consistency of runny yoghurt.
3. Cut the newspaper into strips roughly around 5cm x 10cm as a guide – they don't need to be accurate.
4. Blow up a balloon to the size that you want your planet and tie the end.
5. Now cover your balloon in a first layer of papier-mache by dipping a piece of paper into the watery glue mix, wiping off the excess mixture and then laying onto your balloon. Make sure that the pieces of paper overlap and you only put the first two layers on.
6. Leave to dry
7. Repeat steps 5 and 6 until you are happy with your planet structure and leave to dry. The more layers you put on, the sturdier your planet will be.
8. If you are making Saturn or Uranus, you will want to add a ring to your structure. Do this by cutting out a large circle of card the size of the outside of the rings (you can tape smaller pieces together). Now cut a hole in the middle, so that your papier-mache balloon slots inside. Use masking tape to attach the ring to the planet and then cover the ring in two layers of papier-mache. (Don't do too many layers or it will be too heavy.)
9. When fully dry, use the scissors to cut the tail of the balloon off so it deflates and you can remove it from the middle, leaving your perfect, papier-mache planet.

10. Paint your planet. You may want to start with a base layer and you may need to do research if you want an accurate representation of a particular planet.

Alternatives:

- Use a different material for the ring of Saturn and Uranus such as foam, wire or bubble wrap.
- Why not make a Sun and Moon too?
- Hang them in order with string from a ceiling orbiting a large Sun.
- Try to blow up the balloons so that you get an idea of which planets are bigger than others.
- Could you use this method to make hemispheres to demonstrate the phases of the moon?
- Why not imagine and create your own planets?

