

# Balloon Papier Mâché

This is a fun, longer term project with a wide range of uses. **All you need** is some:

- Non-toxic wallpaper paste
- Strips of old (but clean) newspaper (approx. 4cm wide)
- A blown up balloon

**What to do:** dip strips of newspaper into the wallpaper paste, one at a time, and flatly place on top of the balloon, gradually creating a covering layer. Repeat several times. (Papier mâché must be done slowly, allowing each application to dry fully before applying the next. Don't apply more than three or four layers at a time. In between applications you can peg the balloon to the washing line outside to help it to dry faster). When the papier mâché is to the required thickness and is strong enough for your purposes, burst the balloon inside with a pin and remove it. The circular papier mâché can be cut into whatever shape you desire and can be used to make something special. Possible ideas could be: to turn the shapes into masks (you can build up the papier mâché into mounds for noses or eyebrows etc), or into animal heads (building up a collection of different types), or to just make decorative 'lanterns' that can be hung from the ceiling. Once your papier mâché is dry it can be painted and/or decorated any way you like.

