

# Decorative Birds out of Old Paper



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# Learning Objectives

1. To develop fine motor skills by crumpling, shaping, tearing, and layering paper.
2. To encourage creativity through forming and decorating a bird using simple, repurposed materials.
3. To improve hand-eye coordination while assembling and layering delicate materials like paper.
4. To promote social interaction through a shared, hands-on art activity.
5. To introduce sustainable crafting practices by reusing old newspaper and tissue paper.
6. To foster self-expression and a sense of accomplishment through tactile, creative experiences.

# Duration

This activity takes approximately 2–3 hours of active crafting time, but due to the use of glue and multiple paper layers, the drying process may take several days in natural conditions. We recommend splitting the activity into two sessions:

- Session 1: Shaping the bird and applying all the necessary layers.
- Session 2: Decorating the bird with paint and adding additional touches.

# Group Size

This activity is best suited for 4 to 10 participants, allowing for personal creativity while fostering a supportive, social environment.

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# Materials Needed

- Old newspaper (for shaping and outer layers)
- Tissue paper or paper towels
- PVA or school glue
- Small amount of water (to mix with glue)
- Bowl (for glue mixture)
- Wooden stick or brush (for spreading glue)
- Clean working surface (plastic sheet or old newspaper)
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrushes (various sizes)
- Optional decorations: feathers, googly eyes or craft eyes, beads, sequins

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# Step-by-step Description

1. **Prepare materials:** gather all materials and cover the table with newspaper or a plastic sheet to keep things clean.
2. **Shape the bird:** take a double sheet of old newspaper, fold and rub it between your fingers to soften it. Crumple it gently into a bird shape—starting with the body and shaping a head, beak, tail, and wings as desired.
3. **Tear a paper towel:** tear tissue or paper towels (2 sheets) into small pieces. These will help strengthen the bird's structure.
4. **Make the glue mixture:** mix a small amount of PVA or school glue with water in a bowl until it reaches a smooth, spreadable consistency.
5. **Cover the bird with paper towel:** dip each tissue piece into the glue, remove excess glue, and apply to the bird's surface. Smooth it down gently and continue layering until the whole bird is covered. Flatten the bottom slightly so the bird can stand on its own.
6. **Tear newspaper:** before continuing, tear more pieces of clean newspaper—ideally using sections without text.
7. **Add a newspaper layer:** once the paper towel layer is complete, add strips of clean newspaper. Press these onto the bird's sticky surface for a cleaner finish.

**8. Apply another layer with glue:** place a piece of newspaper directly onto the bird's body, then use a wooden stick or brush to apply glue over the top of the paper. Add more glued newspaper strips as needed, covering and reinforcing any weak or uneven areas to strengthen the overall structure.

**9. Let the bird dry completely:** once all layers are finished, place the bird on a windowsill or in direct sunlight and let it dry naturally for 2–3 days. This will ensure that all the glue and paper layers harden fully before decorating, handling or displaying the bird.

**10. Paint the bird:** using acrylic paints, apply several thin layers to build up rich, even colour. Allow each layer to dry before adding the next. Don't forget to paint or draw eyes, beak markings, feather patterns and any other features.

**11. Glue on additional decorations:** use PVA to attach feathers, yarn accents, beads or googly eyes. Press gently and let dry.

## **12. Final drying and finishing touches**

Once all paint and glued decorations are applied, allow the bird to dry for at least 12–24 hours at room temperature. This ensures the paint layers and any glued elements (like feathers, yarn, or eyes) fully set and adhere properly. After this final drying period, your decorative bird will be ready to display!

**TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE WRITTEN EXPLANATION, WATCH THE VIDEO. [CLICK HERE.](#)**



# Learning Outcomes

1. Develop fine motor coordination through paper shaping.
2. Explore artistic expression using a variety of textures and colors.
3. Strengthen hand-eye coordination by handling lightweight, detailed materials.
4. Experience collaboration and joy through group creativity and conversation.
5. Learn the value of sustainability by reusing newspaper and tissue paper.
6. Feel empowered and proud of their finished bird sculpture—a unique creation.

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# Tips and Adaptations

- For limited dexterity: pre-crumple newspaper shapes and provide ready-torn paper.
- For vision difficulties: use high-contrast paper and acrylic paint for better visibility.
- To stabilize the bird: ensure the bottom is flat when forming it, or use a small cardboard base for support.

# Ideas for Inspiration

- [DIY crafts](#)
- [CREATIVE PAPER MACHE CLAY DIY HOME DECOR IDEAS - AESTHETIC DECORATIONS](#)
- [Paper Mache Projects and How To Make Them](#)
- [40 DIY Paper Mache Ideas To Take On](#)
- [Paper Mache Vases at House of Ekam!](#)
- [Making a HUGE ORCHID 🌸 Papier Mache part](#)  
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