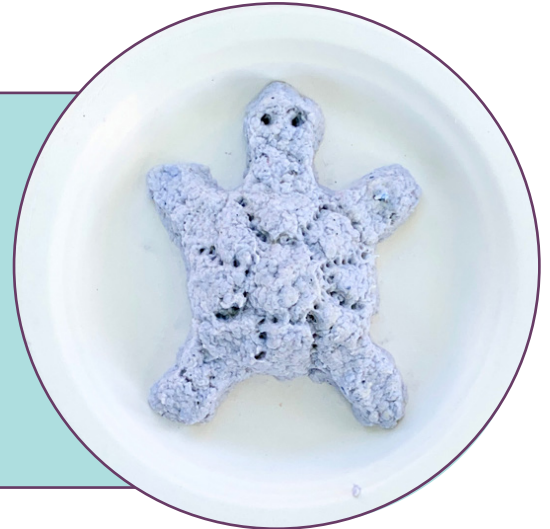


Make a Paper Clay Sculpture

Learn a simple recipe for turning scrap paper into clay, then create your own very own sculpture!

You Will Need

- Torn or shredded paper
- Hot water
- Flour
- Stick blender
 - You will need an adult to help you!
- Waxed paper for drying surface or paper plate



SOAK! Fill a bowl 3/4 of the way with torn or shredded paper. Pour hot water over the paper shreds to cover. Let the mixture sit for several hours or overnight to loosen the paper fibers.

BLEND! Use an immersion or stick blender to blend the soaked paper mixture. Add enough water to make blending easy, and blend until the paper is a soft pulp.

SQUEEZE! Over the sink, squeeze most of the water out of the mixture. You can do this handful by handful, or use a screen strainer to push the water out.

MIX! Measure your pulp. For every 1 cup of pulp, add 1/3 cup flour. Work the flour into the pulp with your hands until it is a uniform clay mixture. If the clay feels too dry, add a spoonful of water.

That's it – you have created your clay! The clay will stick on surfaces when it dries, so wash the bowl and blender right away

SCULPT! Play around with your clay, experimenting with the different shapes and forms you can create. Work on a protected surface like waxed paper, newspaper, or a plastic tablecloth.

DRY! Once you've created a finished sculpture, it's time to let it dry. Drying time varies, but could take two to three days in the sun. With an adult's help, you can also dry your sculpture in an oven at 200 degrees. Paper clay is paintable, too! Store unused clay in the refrigerator for up to two days.



China, 3rd or 4th century. Figure of a mythical tricorn animal (85.039).

Challenge Yourself!

Try making a sculpture of your favorite animal, or creating a fantasy creature by combining the body of one animal with the head of another. Keep going: how many different animals can you combine?

Or try replicating one of the amazing sculptures from the Johnson Museum's collection!