

# **Paper Mache Sculpture: Mounted Animal Heads “Trophy Wall of Shame”**

## **What’s Paper Mache?**

A French word, translated “chewed-paper”

In this process we will create a rough basic form, using newspaper and masking tape; we will add features and fine details using numerous layers of paper soaked in a mixture of glue and water. Once the layers are molded to resemble the creature of your choice, they will dry and harden. The final stage is to decorate your form using paint, colored paper, yarn, tissue paper, etc. The result is a unique sculpture with endless creative possibilities!

## **Key terms:**

Paper-Mache:

Relief:

Anatomy:

Armature:

## **Project Goals & Requirements**

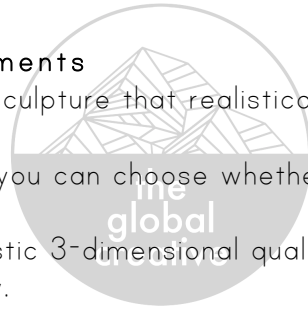
Make a 3-dimensional, relief sculpture that realistically depicts the animal of your choice.

There is no size requirement, you can choose whether to depict your animal life-sized, or scaled down.

Your creation must have realistic 3-dimensional qualities, which includes facial features and correct anatomy.

Your goal is to master the techniques associated with paper-mache (layering, smoothing, adding details, etc)

Demonstrate creative approach to decorating not only your animal’s head, but also the plaque on which it is mounted.



Steps:

1. Animal Research and Image: Choose the animal you would like to create awareness for, this animal must be extinct due to human interference, or critically endangered as a direct result of humans. Complete the animal research assignment and find 2 images that will guide you in the creation of your animal sculpture (one front view, one side/profile view).
2. Preliminary Drawing: create a rough sketch of what you would like your finished "mounted animal head" to look like. Use your printed images as a guide, and develop a plan for decoration as well.
3. Anatomical Armature: (bones and skeleton) Build the basic form of the piece using balled-up newspaper and masking tape. Stiff cardboard may also be used. This includes the general shape of your animal: skull shape and size, location of eyes, nose, mouth and cheeks, etc.
4. First Muscle Layer: cover the surface of your form with strips of newspaper (torn vertically) and dipped in glue-water. Build up the larger details of your sculpture: cheek bones, chin, eyebrow bones, etc.
5. Second Muscle layer: using toilet paper soaked in glue-water, apply the finer details not easily formed with newspaper (the toilet paper should be molded once soaked and smoothed onto the form). Your sculpture will appear more detailed, & less general at this stage.
6. Skin layer: coat the surface with torn paper towels strips, soaked in glue-water, to create a smooth layer over the toilet paper areas. This will also make the surface stronger and easier to paint.
7. Create Plaque and Attach Form: See handout on plaque style choices and how to create a template/cut out your plaque. Attach your form to the plaque by using masking tape strips that follow the form (should not be any space between the tape and the form or plaque) \*if your animal head is large you may take the newspaper out from inside your form before you mount it, to reduce weight. Once the head is mounted, finish by paper-mache-ing the head to the plaque and covering the plaque in a layer of paper-mache that wraps around all edges of the plaque.
8. Paint/Decorate and Finish: get creative with your decoration, try to recreate the texture or feel of your animal, or go abstract. Your decoration should enhance the look and realistic form you've created. See handout on decoration techniques.

