

Papier Mache Pottery

This activity uses paper strips and a liquid glue to create fantastic 3D pottery, to be decorated in any way you like. We have a range of designs available based on the amazing pottery found in the Oriental Museum's Jericho collection, but feel free to embrace your creative side and design your own pottery! Please be advised that this activity could get messy, so please put down something to cover precious surfaces from glue, pens and/or paint, but don't forget to have fun!

Materials:

- Balloon (optional, depending on your chosen design)
- Cardboard (e.g. from an empty cereal box)
- Cling film
- Flour (optional, for glue making)
- Kitchen roll or tissue
- Newspaper
- Paintbrush (optional)
- Pens
- PVA Glue (or you can make your own – see below instructions)
- Scissors
- Small container
- Surface covering/protector
- Tape
- Tape ring (optional, depending on your chosen design)
- Water



Pottery Design Examples:

A. This design involves using a ballon, two tape rings and some cling-film, to create a Papier Mache pot like these from Ancient Jericho.



B. This design involves using a bowl already available within your house and some cling-film, to create a Papier Mache bowl like these from Ancient Jericho.



Instructions:

1. Choose your pot design from our examples above!
2. Set up the base/outline for your pot based on the design you have chosen.
 - a. Blow up your balloon until it is the desired size of your eventual pot. To stop your balloon from rolling around, sit the bottom of the balloon (the tied end facing upwards) into a large tape ring and fix in place using tape. Place another tape ring wrapped in cling film on the top of your balloon and fix in place using tape. The size of this second tape ring is dependent on the desired size of the neck of your pot.



OR

- b. Simply wrap your chosen bowl in cling film and place it upside down on the table. Cling film is used so that the bowl stays clean and is easier to remove once the Papier Mache is dry!



- 3. Set your base to one side and using scissors, or your hands, cut/rip your sheets of newspaper into strips.



4. Pour some PVA glue into a small container and add a small amount of water to make the glue thinner. If you do not have PVA glue, you can follow the instructions bellow to create your own liquid glue!

Please make sure that you make this glue after you have set up the other materials, as it can harden if left for too long.

- a. Mix one cup of flour with one cup of water until it is combined, trying to smooth out any lumps. This recipe makes a relatively large quantity of 'glue', therefore, please adjust the quantity of flour and water accordingly (if you are making a smaller pot, a $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of flour and water should be sufficient).
- b. If the mixture starts to dry, add small amounts of water to loosen it.



5. Now you can start creating your pot! Continue following the instructions on this page if you are creating Design A or go to page 13 if you are creating Design B.

Design A

1. Using your hands, dip a strip of newspaper into the glue so that it is well coated on either one or both of its sides. Using your hands, or the sides of the container, remove any excess glue from the piece of newspaper and stick it to the surface of your balloon. Alternatively, you can use a paintbrush, or your fingers, to apply a layer of glue to an area of the balloon and then place the piece of newspaper onto that area.



2. Continue this process until the area of the balloon visible between the two tape rings, as well as the upper tape ring wrapped in cling-film, is covered in 2-3 layers of newspaper. If the newspaper strips stuck down have a layer of glue on their outer surface, you can stick dry strips of newspaper to the surface. This not only saves glue but also allows the pot to dry faster. These layers strengthen the Papier Mache pot and allow it to harden in the desired shape.



3. Now place the pot to one side to allow it to dry a little. Take a sheet of white tissue roll and tear or cut it into pieces/strips. Once you have a decent number of strips, using the same method as before, stick these pieces of tissue roll to the pot, covering the layer of newspaper. Tissue roll is much more delicate than newspaper, therefore, be careful when coating it with glue as it rip easily. This creates an additional layer of white tissue paper, making it easier to paint or decorate your pot as you wish! Now leave to dry completely.



4. Once it is completely dry, remove the tape rings and burst the inner balloon. Using scissors, cut away any uneven pieces of paper around the upper and lower holes, so that they become smooth rims.



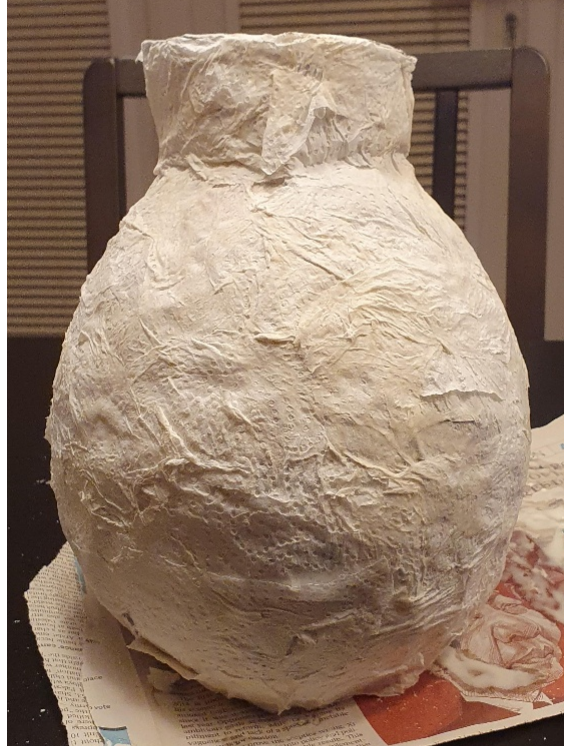
5. Place the bottom of the pot onto the piece of cardboard and trace around it. Cut around the traced circle so that you make a slightly larger base. If you are using thinner card (i.e., from a cereal box), you may need to make a few copies of the circle and stick them together, so that the base is thicker and stronger.



6. It may be difficult to stick the piece of cardboard to the rim of the bottom of the pot, therefore, it will be easier to utilise previous methods and stick newspaper and tissue paper strips to cover the piece of cardboard and attach it to the pot. This seals the hole and creates a flat base for your pot to stand on.



7. And there you have it, a finished Papier Mache pot from Ancient Jericho! You can now decorate your pot as you wish.



If you enjoyed this craft activity and are feeling especially creative, you can design your own pot or bowl using inspiration from items at home or from the other pottery in the Oriental Museum's Jericho collection!

Design B

1. Using your hands, dip a piece of paper into the glue mixture so that is well coated. Remove any excess glue from the piece of paper and stick it to the outer surface of your cling film wrapped bowl. Alternatively, you can use a paintbrush or your hands to apply a layer of glue to an area of the cling film and then place the piece of paper onto that area.



2. Continue this process until the outer surface of the cling film wrapped bowl is covered in 2-3 layers of paper or newspaper, and then leave to dry for a little bit. These layers strengthen the Papier Mache bowl and allow it to harden in the desired shape. When applying the strips of paper, if the surface of your bowl is already wet with glue, you can stick dry strips of paper to the surface and coat them in a thin layer of glue to make them stick, instead of dipping all strips in the glue.



3. While it is drying, tear up pieces of white tissue roll. Using the same method as before, stick these pieces of tissue roll to the bowl. This creates an additional layer of white tissue paper, which makes it easier to paint or decorate your bowl as you wish! Now leave to dry completely.



4. Once completely dry, the Papier Mache should have hardened. You can now remove the bowl and cling film which was used as the base. Using scissors, cut away any uneven pieces of paper from the rim of your bowl, so that you are left with a smooth rim.



5. And there you have it, a finished Papier Mache bowl from Ancient Jericho! You can now decorate your bowl as you wish.



If you enjoyed this craft activity and are feeling especially creative, you can design your own pot or bowl using inspiration from items at home or from the other pottery in our exhibition!