

Family Art from Home

Imaginary Paper Animals

by Ophelia Cornet



This project will use shapes as the basis for forming your paper animal. A **polygon** is a closed shape with straight sides. Rectangles, triangles, hexagons, and octagons are all polygons. The goal in this art project is to be spontaneous as you cut with your scissors to see what you come up with rather than pre planning an existing animal. With this project, I encourage trying something else by not trying, if that makes sense! This is how we delight in surprises and expand possibilities!

Materials Needed

- Template of polygons (Note: If you don't have a printer, fill a page with your own polygon shapes with a sharpie and color them in.)
- Construction paper (2 + colors)
- Sharpie
- Glue stick
- Hot glue or Elmer's glue to attach
- Scissors
- Dowel or Popsicle stick (optional)

How to Do It

1. Cut Left and Right...

Begin by cutting on the orange lines on the template and make sharp turns with your scissors to begin cutting along another connecting orange line. Rather than cutting each shape out individually, group several polygons together to create larger shapes. These will become a spontaneous head, a body, and maybe some limbs. It's important not to plan what you'll do ahead of time but rather stay present as you cut to create interesting angled shapes. See **Image 2**.

2. Glue onto Construction Paper

Before gluing your shapes down, spend a little time moving them around until you settle on the most unusual creature. When you are ready, apply glue to the back of your paper shapes. Press the shapes down with your fingers to seal the edges.

3. Creating a Colorful Border

In this step, we are simply cutting a border of equal distance around your creature to create a sort of decorative frame. See **Image 3**. You can in fact repeat this step

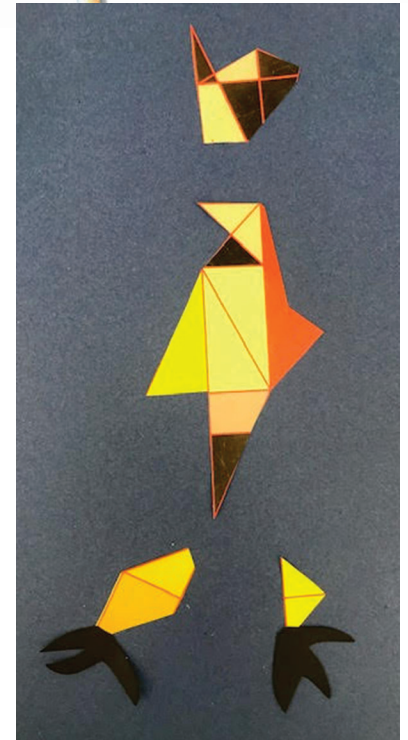


IMAGE 2



IMAGE 3



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again on another color of paper to get a layered border. You can see this done with the samples on the top and left side of **Image 5**.

4. Add Embellishments

Using your Sharpie or pieces of construction paper, feel free to add eyes, patterns, and paws or claws. You may want to create contrast by using black or prefer to go subtle with other colors. Both are great! **See Image 4.**

Attach a stick to the back with hot glue or Elmer's glue if you want to create a paper puppet or decorate a potted plant! Without a stick, these make great cards!



IMAGE 4



IMAGE 5

