

## Family Art from Home

# Totem Creatures

by Radka Apostalon

In many indigenous cultures around the world, totems are created to represent a person's family or their tribe. They are often symbolized through animals or people. In this project, you can create a totem that symbolizes your family by using items found around your home.

### Supplies Needed

- Cardstock or cardboard (ex. large cereal box)
- Blue glue, hot glue or Elmer's glue
- Paint, ink
- Scissors, knife or spoon
- Sharpie
- Stapler
- Potatoes
- Cookie Cutters (optional)

### How to Do It

#### MAKE THE POTATO STAMP (NEEDS ADULT SUPERVISION)

1. Cut the potato in half. Draw simple shapes such as circles, squares and rectangles on the surface of the potato using a Sharpie. Cut around this shape with a kitchen knife and scoop out the potato (see photo).

#### MAKE THE TOTEM

2. Use the cardboard or cardstock to cut basic shapes for your creature or person. Make a rectangle for the body and triangles for the beak, ears, and feet. Paint all the surfaces to your liking and let dry.

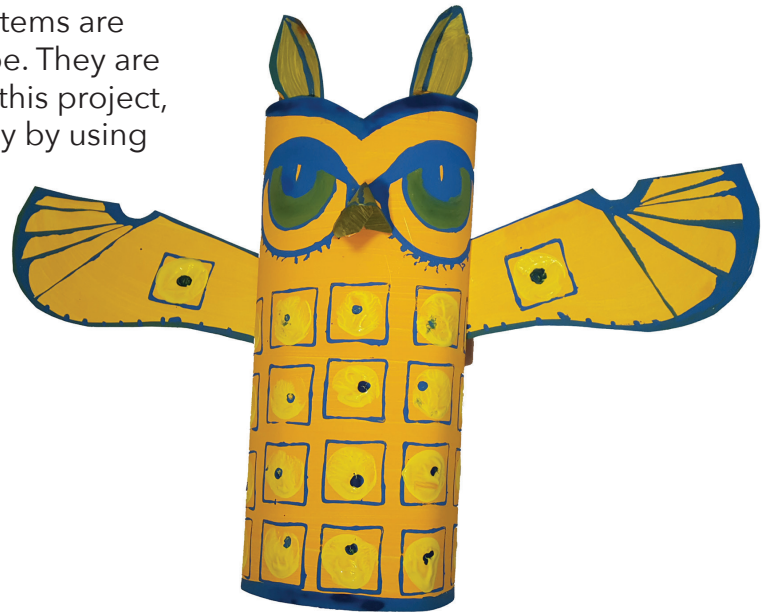
3. Use the potato stamps to decorate the dry painted flat surface with additional touches of ink or Sharpie. Your creature can be also decorated with garden/park offerings such as grass, feathers, or leaves.

4. Staple the rectangular body into cylinder shape and glue the dry body parts to the body, hot glue preferred for the instant bond (see photo). Add finishing touches.

5. Hang or stand the totem creature/s in a prominent spot and enjoy.

#### Art Project variation for the entire family

Totem creatures can be made in multiples and stacked on a pole or stick.



Albuquerque Museum  
2000 Mountain Road NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87104  
505-243-7255 • cabq.gov/museum

ONE  
ALBUQUE  
RQUE cultural services