

Family Art from Home

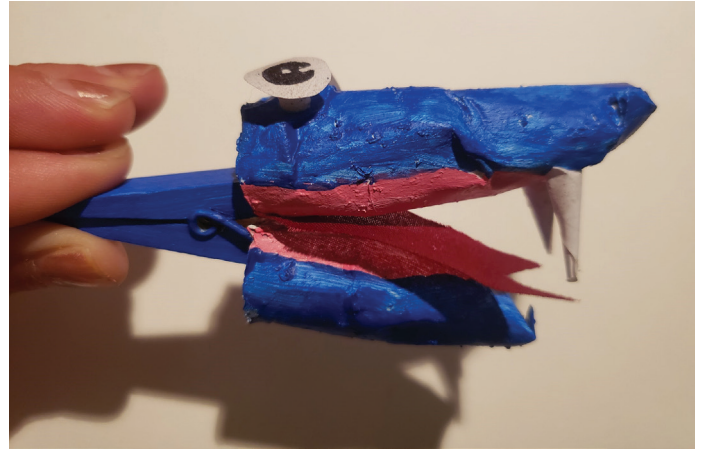
Clothespin Creature

by Yana Apostalon

Make an entertaining *papier-mâché* creature from scratch who can help hold things together around the house.

Supplies Needed

- Clothespin
- Ribbon/fabric
- White paper
- Flour
- Water
- Bowl (to mix *papier-mâché* materials in)
- Vaseline
- Elmer's white glue
- Newspaper
- Sharpie
- Scissors
- Paints: white, red, other colors



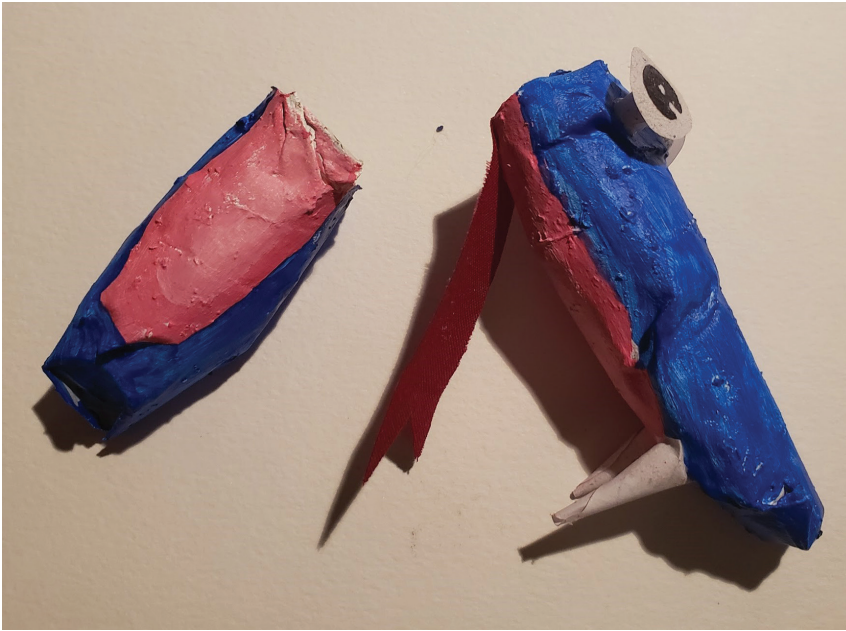
How to Do it

1. Prepare your *papier-mâché* batter by mixing one part glue with one part flour and two parts water in a bowl. Tear up pieces of newspaper in about half inch strips.
2. Next cover your thumb and forefinger in Vaseline so you can easily remove your *papier-mâché* pieces from your fingers.
3. Coat the newspaper strips in your *papier-mâché* batter and lay them over your thumb and forefinger separately.
4. You'll have two pieces that should resemble your thumb and forefinger with one being longer. Remove them from your fingers delicately and let them dry.
5. While these pieces are drying, make the eyes, teeth and tongue. To make the eyes, roll up two small (about a quarter inch) pieces of paper. Cut out two circles and draw in pupils with a Sharpie. Glue the circles onto the rolled up paper and you have two eyes! To make the teeth, roll up two cones and glue the edges down (see image). To make the tongue, take some fabric or a ribbon, and cut a notch at the top. Make sure your tongue is longer than your shortest *papier-mâché* piece so it hangs out of the mouth.



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6. Once the *papier-mâché* pieces are dry you can paint them white. This will provide a base layer for the mouth details and whatever color and design you choose to cover your creature. Paint your clothespin white for the same reason.

7. When the white paint is dry, mix up two shades of pink by combining your red and white paint. Make two arches originating from the open end of the *papier-mâché* pieces and paint them with the shades of pink, with the darker tone on the underside. This will be your creature's mouth.

8. Glue your tongue with the straight edge coming from the open base of longer of your *papier-mâché* pieces (see image).

9. Next paint the rest of the white surface with the color of your choice. You can add scales, fur, spots, or horns. Get creative with it! Paint your clothespin a similar color.

10. Once all the paint is dry, glue on your teeth and eyes. Make sure the teeth will not get in the way when the clothespin is closed.

11. The final step is to glue your creature to the clothespin by covering the inside of the surface in glue. Attach the shorter piece on the bottom and the longer piece on the top, with the mouth parts facing each other. Your clothespin creature is complete!

Enjoy your new helping hand!