

## Paper Mache Logs, Fruit and Picture Frame

### Technique Discussion:

Paper Mache has been used for sculpture, piñatas, and crafts for many years. In this activity, newspaper is used for the paper and the glue is made from a flour and water mixture.

When working with wet Paper Mache you must move quickly. The forms, which are being covered in the wet Paper Mache, are constructed from paper and will wilt when wet. Each object must be covered with 3 layers of Paper Mache. This project requires teamwork and patience. Just like clay, the objects will need time to dry. Once dry the objects will be hard, making them easy to paint.

### Activity:

**Supplies:** Toilet paper and paper towel tubes (at least 3 dozen), balloons, cardboard, newspaper, masking tape, flour, water, large plastic containers to hold flour and water mixture, paint, brushes, [Paper Mache Forms](#)

**Time:** Part 1 – Making forms: 30 minutes with 8 students  
Part 2 – Covering the forms with Paper Mache: 30 minutes with 10 students working in 2 person teams  
Part 3 – Drying the forms: 2 to 5 days depending on atmosphere conditions  
Part 4 – Painting the forms: 20 minutes with 3-4 students

**Note to Instructor:** *These are messy projects. Be prepared with plenty of paper towels. Have a designated place for placing the objects to dry where they will not be disturbed.*

**Students Examples:** [IMG 3132.jpg](#), [IMG 3130.jpg](#), [IMG 3143.jpg](#),  
[IMG 3138.jpg](#), [IMG 3128.jpg](#), [IMG 3129.jpg](#)

1. Log Forms: Using paper tubes and tape, create log shapes at least 3 inches in diameter and 12 to 16 inches long. Wadded up paper can also be used to enhance the form.
2. Fruit Forms: Make bananas taping two paper tubes together at a 30 degree angle. Pinch and tape the ends together. Blow up balloon to sizes slightly larger than oranges and apples. Tie off balloons.
3. Frame Form: Cut a large oval out of the cardboard. Cut an oval big enough for a portrait drawing in the center of the large oval. Line the cardboard with tubes and tape into place. This will create a bevel shape.
4. Mix flour and water together. The mix should be watery with a slight thickness of flour. Make about 3 cups worth and mix well. Note: Flour dissolves better in warm water.
5. Rip newspapers into 1 inch thick strips of various lengths.

6. Dip newspaper strips into flour/water mixture until paper is wet. Wipe off excess water by running strip through thumb and forefinger. Wrap the strip around the form. Repeat until the form is completely covered. Repeat for second and third layer.

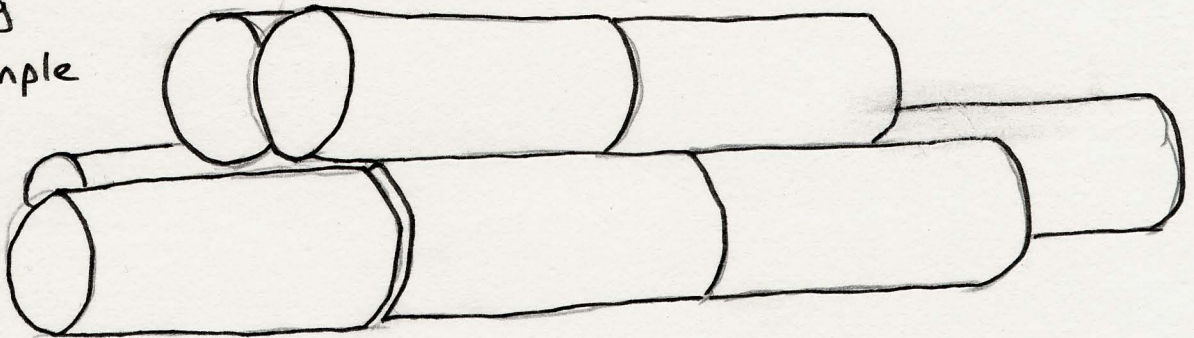
Partners can work together by having one student hold the form while the other wraps the wet paper. When the form becomes overly wet, handle with care. Tears can be repaired by placing another wet strip over the rip.

7. Carefully place items onto surface for drying.
8. Once dry, paint each object. Use brown with black accents for the logs and allow the students to choose the color of their frame. The fruit should be painted with realistic colors.

# Paper Mache' Forms

\* Tape Together tubes

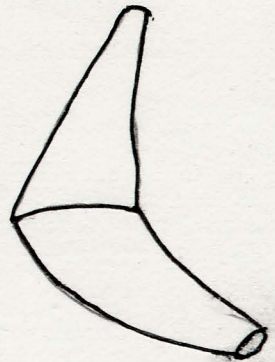
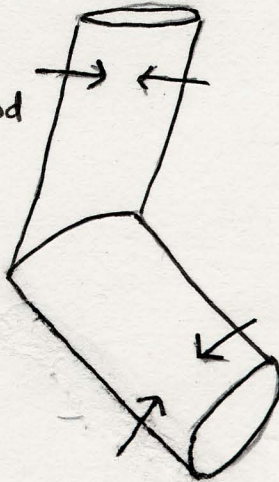
Log  
Example



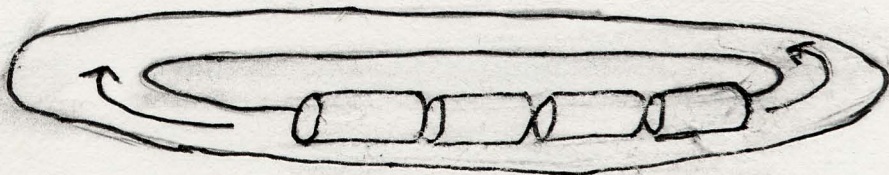
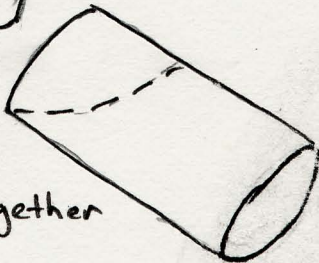
Banana Example



pinch  
ends and  
tape



cut on  
dotted lines  
And tape together



Frame side view