

How to Make a Piñata – Step by Step

1. Mix flour and water into paste in a disposable container. Every “how to” article on piñatas has slightly different instruction about the best paste recipe. The most common options are available at <http://familycrafts.about.com/cs/papermache/a/blpmpastes.htm>. The traditional glue is called “Engrudo,” and a recipe for it is available at TIDES.
2. Blow up the balloon. The balloon will form the body of your piñata, so choose the size and shape of the balloon based on the size and shape you want your piñata to be.
3. Make additional shapes (arms, legs, star points, etc.) out of cardboard or newspapers to finish your design, and attach them securely to the balloon with masking tape.
4. Tear newspapers into 1” – 2” X 6” strips. Most articles agree that newspaper must be torn, rather than cut, because it affects the way the newspaper layers on the balloon.
5. Dip strips of newspaper into the glue and lay them one at a time over the balloon until it is completely covered. Let dry until it is no longer sticky to touch. Leave a hole at the top of the balloon so you can pop it and fill the finished piñata with goodies.
6. Repeat until the balloon is covered in several layers of paper mache. All instructional articles agree that each piñata must have at least three layers. The more layers that you apply, the stronger your piñata will be. For a really strong piñata, several articles suggested wrapping the balloon in string or tape after the third layer has dried, and then applying two more layers. This will, however, make your piñata much more difficult to break to get the goodies out.
7. Paint it with the design that you want it to have.
8. Glue 1” -3” squares of crepe paper, tissue paper, or construction paper onto the smooth surface, changing colors to indicate the design you are attempting to create. Start at the bottom and work upwards, overlapping the layers.
9. Add other decorations – feathers, beads, glitter.
10. Cut a small hole at the top and attach a string.
11. Fill with goodies through the hole you left when you popped the balloon, and then cover the hole with additional paper.

Resources

Fournier, Catherine. “Fridge Art: Making a Piñata.” Domestic Church Communications, Ltd., 1997-2005. <http://www.domestic-church.com/CONTENT.DCC/19981101/FRIDGE/pinata.htm>

“How to Make a Piñata.” <http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Pi%C3%B1ata>.

Osborn, Sheri. “Family Crafts: Paper Mache Pinata.” About.com. <http://familycrafts.about.com/cs/papermache/l/blpmachpl.htm>.

Osborn, Sheri. “Family Crafts: Paper Mache Paste Recipes.” About.com. <http://familycrafts.about.com/cs/papermache/a/blpmpastes.htm>