



# Terrific Totem Pole

## Objective:

- Develop an understanding of paper mache'.
- Develop fine motor skills.
- Create a totem pole.
- Create a three dimensional form.
- Understand what a totem pole is and how it was used by Native Americans.

## Key words:

Totem pole, Native American, Symbolism, Animal, Paper mache', three dimensional

## Materials:

- Internet or library trip
- A variety of different sized and shaped containers (Bread crumb container, Puffs container, soda cans, baby food container, etc.)
- Newspaper torn into short strips and some to cover the work area
- 1 ½ cups of flour
- 1 cup of water
- Container to mix in

- Hot glue gun
- Paint
- Scissors
- Paint brushes
- Markers or crayons
- Any additional items they might want to use to decorate their totem poles (eyes, glitter, fabric, fur, yarn, etc.)



## Instructions:

1. Look up totem poles and Native Americans either at the library or on the internet. Discuss the importance of totem poles to Native Americans and the symbolism in them.
2. After some research and seeing some visuals of totem poles, have your child pick two to three different animals that might represent them.
3. While they are deciding what animals to choose, mix the paper mache', you can either mix flour and water together or buy pre-made paper mache'. Prepare their area to work. Cover the work space and have short torn strips of newspaper in a pile.
4. Once they have decided how many animals represent them and which ones, help them select two - three containers to use to make their totem pole.
5. The container selected to be the top of the totem pole, needs to have newspaper rolled into a large ball and either taped, glued or pushed into that containers top opening.
6. Starting with the first container. Using the short strips, dip and fully cover them with the paper mache' mixture.

Slide off excess paper mache' and place as smoothly as possible onto the container. Pieces should overlap each other, this makes it stronger.

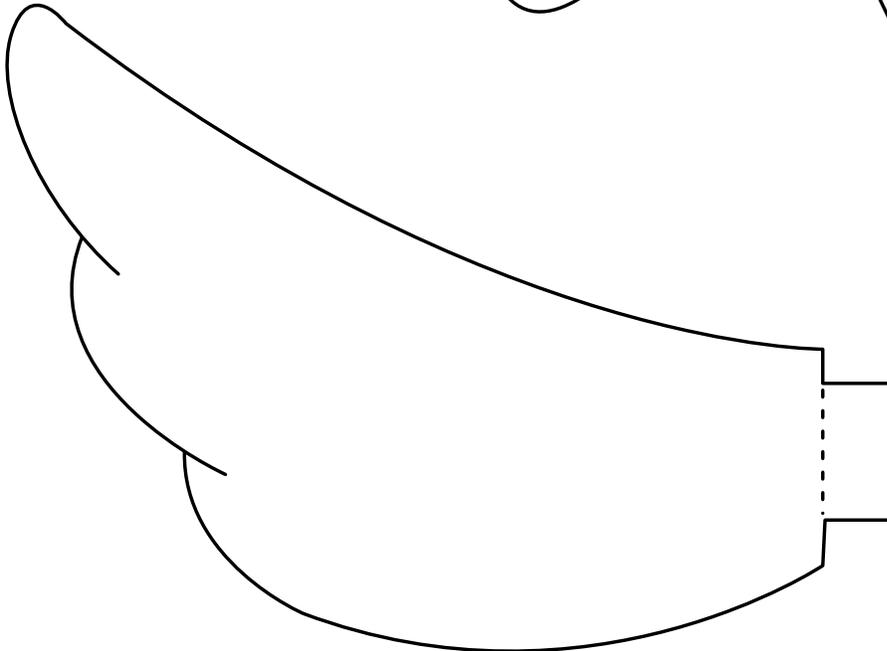
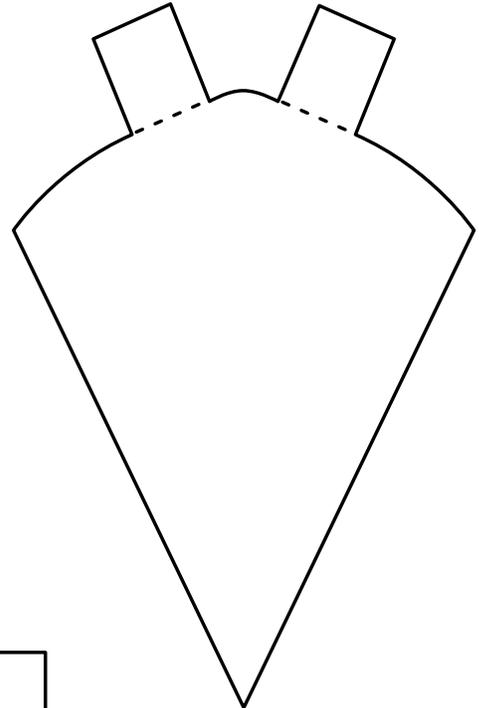
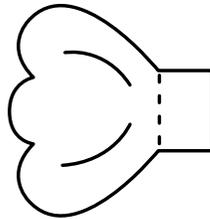
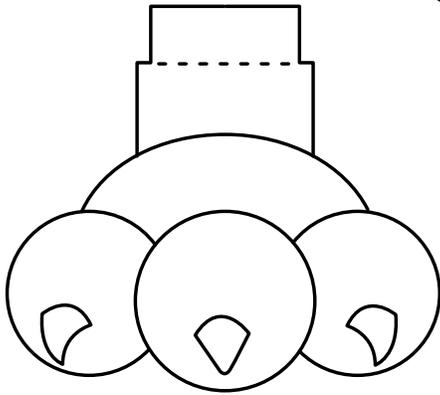
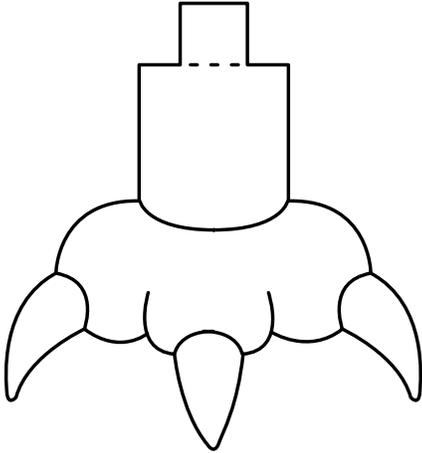
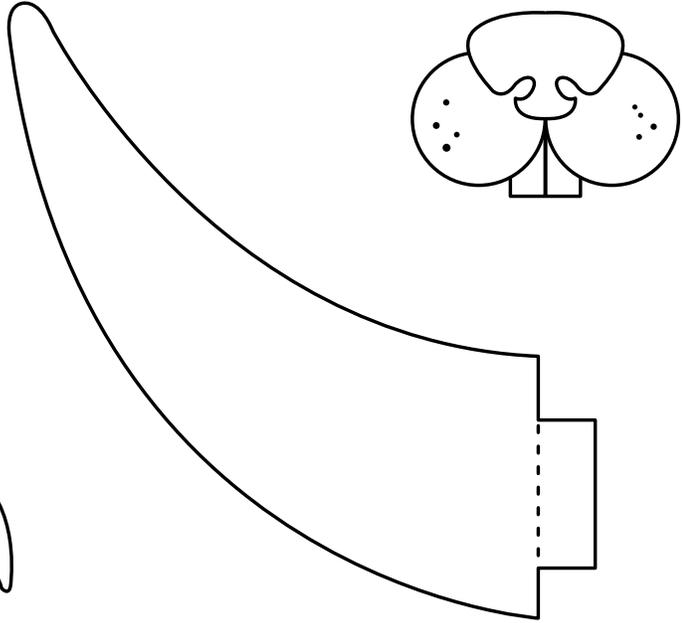
7. Have your child cover the entire container including the ball at the top. Once the container has been covered thoroughly - with two coats of newspaper and paper mache', place aside to dry and start the next containers. Once all containers are covered allow them to dry.

8. It will take a couple of hours to dry, possibly all day. While waiting for the containers to dry, children can color or make the additional items needed to create their animals. A printable is available to help make paws, beaks, wings, etc. These can be used to color in or trace and cut from construction paper.

9. Once everything is dry, use a hot glue gun to glue all the containers into one large "tower".

10. After everything is glued children can begin painting. Allow paints to dry before attaching additional items. Additional items can be from the printables or feathers, glitter, fur, etc. can be used, allow kids to really personalize their totem pole. Once everything is glued your child will have created a totem pole about themselves.

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