

Share a Program Form for *Talking Teen Programs* breakout session

Name of Program: Papier Mache Creatures

Description: This program is best done in summer when the teens can attend two sessions a week apart. The teens make “creatures” approximately 11”-12” in size out of papier mache. In the 1st session they create the basic creature and let it dry one week. The 2nd session is when they paint and detail their creation.

Supplies: Both sessions require big drop cloths to protect the floor/tables from wet papier mache and paint.

Session 1

LOTS of plastic grocery bags

Masking tape

Shirt cardboard

Newspaper torn into 1” strips

Papier Mache paste*

Session 2

Craft paints

Brushes for each teen

Styrofoam egg cartons cut in ½ so 6 cups per

Detailing items like buttons, feathers, yarn

Reference Materials (Books, websites, experts):

Papier Mache for Kids by Sheila McGraw (any books available in your branch)

How-to (Craft projects, science experiments, computer magic, etc.):

1st session: Cover floor with large plastic paint drop cloth (Walmart sells cheap). Tape cloth down. (If you can work out side or over linoleum – even better!) Have newspaper shredded into 1” strips and be prepared to make papier mache paste. (Don’t make it too soon as it may get too thick on you.) First have teens decide what creature they want to make (I have animal and alien books out to encourage thinking.) Then the teens should stuff one sack with lots of other bags or wadded paper to create a fairly firm (but still lightweight) body. Use masking tape to close sack, cinch waists or make general body shape. Use cardboard to make and tape on ears, legs, snouts, etc. Cover all with 2 layers of papier mache. NOT TOO MUCH PASTE. Dip paper into paste and “squeeze” off excess with fingers, keeping strip of paper flat. After they are done, let dry for a week. (Use fans to hurry drying.)

Between sessions: Teacher should lightly spray paint all creature with white flat spray paint. It doesn’t have to be perfectly covering all, but enough to gray out the surface. This gives them a basic white surface to begin with.

2nd session: Again use drop cloths to protect tables. Use egg cartons like a paint pallet. This allows the teens to take a various colors of paint but not too much of any one color. They will need a fairly good amount to cover the body but not much for details like pink ears, eye lashes, etc. SO I give them a lot of the major body color in one cup of the egg carton, and a small amount of “detail” paint later on in the other cups.

Tips: easy non-cook paste uses approx. 1 part flour to 2 parts water and a teaspoon of salt (to prevent mold). Use warm water as it mixes the flour easier and it should end up feeling like gravy (not too thin).

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