



Vase

Don't throw it away! Reuse it!

This is a great container to make as a present for a friend or relative, and it's environmentally friendly.

You can even design your own paper flowers to go in it.



Equipment

1. A 'found object', such as an empty plastic bottle, to recycle.
2. Plenty of old newspapers.
3. Some wallpaper paste (you can buy this in small packets from any hardware store).
4. Some Vaseline (petroleum jelly).
5. Some acrylic paints (if you have them) in a range of colours, and some paintbrushes.
6. Scissors.

Safety Stuff

Check with an adult before you begin, as you might need their help at some stage. Working with items such as scissors can be dangerous, so be very careful when you use them, and make sure that you never leave them open or lying around where smaller children can reach them.

Before starting to make the containers, cover the work surface you're going to use with some newspaper or an old cloth and make sure that you are wearing an apron or some old clothes, particularly when working with papier-mâché (which can be very messy!).

Gather together all the items you'll need before you begin. That way you don't end up hunting around whilst you're covered in glue and bits of newspaper! Most of the things you'll need can probably be found by hunting around the house, but make sure that you check with an adult before you take anything. Even that old newspaper might have been saved by somebody for a reason!

When you've finished, don't forget to tidy everything away. Wash any paint brushes you have used and remember to put the tops back on pens, paint and glue pots.

Steps

Step One

Put a thick layer of Vaseline around the bottom half of the bottle. This stops the papier-mâché from sticking to it. Be careful not to get the Vaseline anywhere else. It's very messy!

Tear the newspaper into strips. Cover the bottom half of the bottle with the strips of newspaper. Overlap each one and fix it with wallpaper paste. Use plenty of paste. Do this until you have at least five layers of papier-mâché around the bottle.



Step Two

Leave the papier-mâché to dry in a warm, place. This may take 3 or 4 days, so be patient!

When dry, gently remove the papier-mâché from the bottle. Trim around the top edge of the vase with a pair of scissors to tidy it up.

Next, paint the vase so that no newspaper shows through. You can paint some designs on the vase, and glue on some extra decorations. Can you think of some good designs for your vase?



Suggestions

Remember that because this vase is made out of papier-mâché, it will not hold water and so is only suitable for paper or dried flowers.

Can you think of any materials that you could use for a vase that could hold water? Why not try some old plastic bottles that you can decorate?

Think about the shape of your container. The container can be different heights. It can be quite shallow or quite deep. What's it going to hold? Is it dried flowers, or cotton wool balls, for example?

