

## Nature Mâché Mash-Up



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Explore texture and form in this fusion of papier mâché, natural elements, and weaving.

This project requires leaving the classroom behind to collect natural materials in the great outdoors! Collected items will be shaped and formed into a decorative papier mâché bowl.

Encourage students to respect the greenspace they are in by using materials that have fallen to the ground. Fallen sticks, leaves, grass, and seed pods are great options. Harvest flowers from plants only if they appear wilted and spent. These can also be supplemented with dried flowers from the Colorberry Resin Additives Collection when back in the classroom.

Blick's Mix Instant Papier Mâché offers all the properties of traditional papier mâché, without the mess and hassle of preparation. The clay-like pulp is sculpted over a mold. Then, while still wet, natural elements such as dried flowers and bark are pressed into the surface.

The physical quality of the bowl's surface can be smooth or rough, depending on which side of the slump or hump mold is used. The rough outer surface can be accentuated, enhancing the natural look of the piece.

Twigs and reeds, anchored into the papier mâché, lend a dramatic sculptural element, while providing a base for weaving.



**Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.**

### Materials (required)

[Blick's Mix Instant Papier Mâché](#), 5 lb (33102-1005); share one bag across class

[Mayco Slump and Hump Molds](#), Circle Mold, 5 3/4" Diameter x 2 1/4" High (30391-1030); share one set between two students

[Trimaco SuperTuff Drop Cloth](#), 1 mil thick, 9ft x 12ft (04519-1912); share one package across class

[Blickrylic Polymer Gloss Medium](#), 32 oz (00711-1027); share one bottle across class

#### Recommended for weaving:

[P.L. Butte Round Reed](#), #3 Round Reed, 1/8", 750 ft (83312-83312); share one roll across class

[Lion Brand Mac-Re-Me Yarn](#), select from a variety of colors, 77 yds (66941-); share at least one skein across class

[Craft Decor Raffia](#), Natural, 2 oz (83708-8452); share at least one bundle across class

[Hemptique Hemp Cord Spools](#), select from a variety of colors and sizes (63830-); share at least one spool across class

#### Recommended natural elements:

[Black Ink Egyptian Papyrus Papers](#), select from various colors, 16" x 24" (11239-); share at least one sheet across class

[Arnold Grummer's Botanicals](#), value set of nine colors, (12824-1009); share one package across class

#### **Optional Materials**

[Black Ink Thai Mango Papers](#), 25" x 37" (11270-)

[Blick Liquid Watercolors](#), select various metallic colors (00369-)

[Pebeo Gedeco Mirror Effect Metal Leaves](#), assorted colors, Pkg of 12 5 1/2" x 5 1/2" Sheets (61916-)

[Pebeo Gedeco Gilding Paste](#), 37 ml (61916-1003)

**Ready to order materials?**

Go to [www.DickBlick.com/lesson-plans/nature-mache-mash-up/](http://www.DickBlick.com/lesson-plans/nature-mache-mash-up/) to access a product bundle for your convenience.

## Preparation

1. Cut the plastic drop cloth into 12" squares— one square per student.

## Process

1. Each student will need approximately 1 cup of wet papier mâché pulp. Mix 3/4 of a cup of water with 1 1/2 cups of Blick's Mix per student. A glue component may settle to the bottom of the bag during shipping. Shake or tumble the sealed bag to make sure the ingredients are evenly incorporated before measuring and adding water.
2. Use a 12" square piece of plastic drop cloth to line the slump or hump side of the mold. Use masking tape to secure at the bottom of the mold.
3. If desired, line the mold with dried flowers and other small found materials. The slump side of the mold forms the outside surface and bottom of the bowl when the piece is complete and removed from the mold. The hump mold forms the inside of the finished bowl.
4. Press a quarter size ball of Blick's Mix pulp into the bottom of the basin. Then, flatten and smooth out the pulp. Continue adding pulp and smoothing, until the desired area is filled.
5. Add reed spokes in an odd number to use for weaving after the piece has dried. Press the reed into the still wet pulp. Add a layer of pulp over the reeds to ensure there is enough material to keep them in place.
6. Additional dried flowers and grasses can be added to the surface of the Blick's Mix pulp. The slump mold forms the inside surface of the dried bowl when removed from the mold. The hump mold forms the outside surface and bottom of the bowl.
7. Additional elements, such as a foot or handles, can be added after the piece is dried and removed from the mold. Papier mâché elements can be added by modeling the wet pulp into a shape and placing it directly onto the dried bowl. Natural elements can be added by using the pulp as a glue or mortar to attach to the bowl.
8. Drying time will vary with the thickness of the application, and may be shortened by placing in a warm and/or low humidity area. In general, a 1/4 inch thick layer of Blick's Mix Papier Mâché will take 24 to 48 hours to dry.
9. Remove from the mold when dry.
10. Seal the bowl with Blickrylic Gloss Medium.
11. Use natural yarns, hemp, or raffia to weave where reed spokes are attached to the bowl.



*Step 1: Mix Blick's Mix Instant Papier Mache two parts dry mix to one part water.*



*Step 2: Smooth Blick's Mix Instant Papier Mâché on the surface of a slump or hump mold.*



*Step 3: Embellish the bowl with natural elements such as dried flowers, paper, bark, reed, and sticks.*

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### Options:

- Pebeo Gedeo Mirror Effect Metal Leaves do not require any special sealant, and can be applied to the surface of Blick's Mix when the mix is still wet.
- After the bowl has dried paint around natural elements with metallic Blick Liquid Watercolors
- Use Pebeo Gedeo Gilding Paste to create a design on the inside or outside surface of the dried bowl. Apply a layer of gilding paste directly from the tube, using the applicator tip. Allow it to dry until it becomes transparent (approximately one hour). Then gently place Pebeo Gedeo Mirror Effect Metal Leaf over the adhesive, colored side up, and apply light pressure to transfer.
- Create a lattice-like open pattern by creating holes in the still wet papier pulp. This can also be done by rolling out the pulp into logs and applying to the mold in overlapping layers in step 4.

### National Core Arts Standards - Visual Arts

#### Creating

Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Anchor Standard 3: Refine and complete artistic work

#### Connecting

Anchor Standard 10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.



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