Pop-Up Studio: Paper Sculpture Animal Masks
Learn paper sculpture techniques and use them to design your own animal mask. Templates are provided to get you started with some animal forms.

Clockwise from top left: Lion, horse, fish, bumblebee, frog, Carolina parakeet. Cat in center. Some of these use scoring and folding techniques to make parts of the animal stand up from the mask. The cat and fish, however, are flat masks made by cutting or ripping pieces of construction paper and gluing them to a mask base.

INSPIRATION
Think about different animals that you would like to become. Do you have pictures of them in books? You can also ask an adult to help you find images of the animals on the internet.

Explore our Animals in Art online gallery to see some of the animals in Reynolda’s collection of art and decorative arts!

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TECHNIQUES

**Cut**: On the templates, the solid lines ( ____________ ) show where to cut with your scissors.

**Score**: an indented line to help with folding. You can do this with a bone folder/scorer or have an adult help use the edge of a pair of scissors to press into the fold. On the templates, the dashed lines ( - - - - - - ) show where to score and fold.

**Fold**: creasing and bending the paper so that the paper on one side of the fold goes in one direction and on the other side of the fold, the paper goes in another direction. On the templates, the dashed lines ( - - - - - - ) show where to fold.

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Curl: You can wrap a strip of paper around a pencil or dowel rod to create a curl.

MATERIALS

➔ A mask base, cut from heavy paper (cardstock is great)
➔ Construction paper
➔ Yarn or ribbon (to tie mask on); OR you can use a popsicle stick to hold the mask
➔ Scissors (at least regular scissors, patterned scissors can be fun too)
➔ Pencil
➔ Ruler
➔ Hole punch

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Glue stick, tape and basic white glue like Elmer’s (optional)
Optional Bone folder to score lines (you can also have an adult help score a line by using the edge of CLOSED scissors)
Optional Various other papers (patterned, foil, etc.)
Optional Materials to embellish your mask like pom poms, feathers, pipe cleaners
Optional Templates for some animal faces

PROCESS
For video instructions, find related episodes on Reynolda’s YouTube page.

1. Decide upon an animal to make into a mask. Think about the colors and materials that you can use to create this animal. Gather these materials.

2. Practice the techniques of cutting, scoring and folding. You can also tear construction paper instead of cutting it; this gives a rough edge.

3. Start with a mask base. For most animals, you can use the basic mask template (included at the end of this document) as a starting point. Print this page on heavy paper or cardstock. To make your animal, you will add paper (and maybe feathers or other items) to this mask base. To create the frog, fish, lion, horse or other animal with a long nose please note that there is a different mask base to get you started (also included at the end of this document).

4. If you want to use a template pattern, print out the pattern pieces for your chosen mask. Use these to cut out construction paper in the colors you want for your animal mask.

5. Cut out or tear paper to cover the mask base. If you are cutting one piece of colored paper to completely cover the mask, flip the mask over and trace it onto the back of your chosen paper. Be sure to also trace the eye holes. To cut out the eyes, lightly bend (without folding) the mask at the eye and cut a small slit in the middle of the eye; then, insert your scissors into the slit to then cut around the eyehole. Ask for help when needed. Glue in skin paper to base. Trim around edges as needed.

6. Cut paper to make beaks, mouths, noses, ears, etc. as needed. Score and fold as needed and attach.

7. Punch holes at the two outer edges, near the eye holes. Place yarn through the hole and tie a knot. Alternatively, tape a popsicle stick or tongue depressor to the mask for a handle.

Please note: The animal mask templates and photographs are examples to help get you started. See what other kinds of animals you can make or what ways you can make the animal differently. Most of the templates only give the beginning, more complicated steps of the project. It is up to you to figure out how you want to finish the animal!

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CONTINUE THIS ACTIVITY
There are many ways in which you can continue this activity.

➔ After deciding on your animal and creating a mask, research some things about your animal. What kind of habitat does it live in? What food does the animal eat? What is the collective noun for a group of these animals (e.g. a pride of lions, a swarm of bees, an army of frogs, etc.)?

➔ Pretend to be your animal and write a riddle sharing some information about, but not giving away too much. Then ask “Who am I?” (For example: I have a mane of hair and big paws. Who am I?)

➔ Find some playdough or clay and sculpt a full body sculpture of your animal.

➔ Write a short poem about your animal. You might want to write an acrostic poem. To do that, write the name of the animal vertically on the page then write a word for each letter in the animal’s name that has to do with that animal. For example:

- Leader of the pride
- Intimidating teeth
- Obviously strong
- Native to Africa and India

Or, write a haiku. The first line should have 5 syllables, the second line has 7 syllables and the last line has 5 syllables. For example:

- Cat on the prowl
- Lion hunts with quiet stealth
- Better luck next time

Or, write a limerick, with five lines. The first two lines and the fifth should rhyme and have 8-9 syllables. Lines three and four should rhyme and have 5-6 syllables. For example:

- There once was a lion from Chad.
- His manners were dreadfully bad.
- No “thank you” nor “please,”
- Nor cover a sneeze,
- So he lost all the friends that he had.

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Mask Base Template

*print on heavy paper or cardstock*

Animal Mask Templates
Bird Mask

Example mask with coffee stirrer handle; inspired by a goldfinch.

Example mask using the Carolina parakeet beak. Unfinished masks to left and right show how the beak is glued behind the mask base.

MATERIALS

➔ A mask base, cut from heavy paper (cardstock is great)
➔ Beak template (next page)
➔ Construction paper (cut or torn)
➔ Optional: feathers
➔ Glue and glue stick
➔ Pencil, scissors, ruler, scoring tool
➔ String and holepunch or popsicle stick and tape

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Animal Mask Templates
Frog Mask

Example frog mask; for an easier version, just draw nostrils rather than making 3D ones

MATERIALS

→ A mask base, cut from heavy paper (cardstock is great)

→ Frog face, chin, eye and nostril template (next page)

→ Construction paper

→ Pencil, scissors, glue stick

→ Optional: scoring tool

→ String and holepunch or popsicle stick and tape

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Frog Mask Template

Cut one from heavy paper (for base)
Cut one from construction paper (for skin)

Frog eye 1
Cut from white or cream

Frog eye 2
Cut from white or cream

Frog Chin/Throat
Glue under the frog base so that it sticks out a little (cut from white or cream)

Frog nostrils
Cut from frog skin color
Fish Mask

This example adds a bottom lip with foil paper and pectoral fins. To make the mask, the base was cut first from card stock. Then, we glued foil paper onto the fish body. We cut the fish body again from construction paper and cut little scale-shaped slits into the body (completely optional). Those slits made for little tabs that we pulled up to expose the foil paper below.

MATERIALS

➔ Fish mask base, cut from heavy paper (cardstock is great)

➔ Construction paper, foil paper optional

➔ Pencil, scissors, glue stick

➔ String and holepunch or popsicle stick and tape

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Fish Mask Template

cut one from heavy paper (for base)
cut one from construction paper (for skin)

Optional: cut additional construction paper or other decorative paper to go underneath the “skin” and cut “scales” to reveal it
Horse Mask (or other animals with long noses)

This sample horse mask uses the templates following and adds a bit of hair (made from construction paper) for the forehead. You can use the base template and animal snout template for other animals with a long nose that would stick out from the face.

MATERIALS

➔ Mask base for animals with long noses, cut from heavy paper (cardstock is great)
➔ Animal snout, horse nose, and horse ear templates (next pages)
➔ Construction paper
➔ Pencil, scissors, glue stick, scoring tool
➔ String and holepunch or popsicle stick and tape

STEPS

1. Print and cut templates.
2. Trace ear, snout and nose templates onto construction paper and cut out.
3. Place the patterns on top of the cut-out construction paper and follow the dotted lines with a scoring tool to score the horse nose.

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4. For the two outer flaps (to the far left and far right of the horse nostrils, where you made a long cut line), bend these back behind the end of the nose and glue them to give shape to the nose. (See red arrows)

5. Then, cut out the nostrils along the solid black lines. Make a score mark where the dashed line instructs and cut a small slit where the template says “Cut to here” at the bottom of the nostril. (See blue arrow) Fold the flap back along the score line. (See green arrow).

7. Make a small bend above the horse nostrils so that they can lay over the end of the snout. Then, bring the long strip of nose up to meet the forehead.

8. Fold the short end of the horse nose over the mask base and glue this new tab behind.

9. For the Left Ear, fold along the scoring line that says “for left ear” and bring this fold to meet the middle score line. For the right ear, fold along the scoring line that says “for right ear” and bring this fold to meet the middle score line. Glue in place.

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Mask Base for Animals with Long Noses

Cut one from heavy paper (for base)
Cut one from construction paper (for skin)

Use for animals such as horses, dogs, deer, etc.

Horse Ear

Cut 2 from construction paper

for right ear

for left ear
Fold wherever you want to fit over mask top.
Note: add 1/2" tab for longer noses (like sample).

Horse Nose
Cut one from construction paper (for skin)

Fold slightly behind nose
Cut

Score
Cut small slit here
Cut small slit here

Animal Mask Templates
Lion Mask – Advanced

This example of a lion face adds hair, whiskers, and black construction paper under the eyes to the shapes provided in the template. We used a paper crimper to create texture for the hair, but you can use the paper curling method to create curly hair.

MATERIALS

➔ Lion mask base, cut from heavy paper (cardstock is great)
➔ Lion face parts and ear templates (next pages)
➔ Construction paper
➔ Pencil, scissors, glue stick, scoring tool
➔ String and holepunch or popsicle stick and tape

STEPS

1. Print and cut templates.
2. Trace ear, snout and nose templates onto construction paper and cut out.
3. Place the patterns on top of the cut-out construction paper and follow the dotted lines with a scoring tool to prepare for folding.
4. Gently fold along lines.

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5. Attach LION FACE LEFT and LION FACE RIGHT construction paper pieces to the LION FACE using tabs A and B.
6. Attach the tabs under E and F to create the lion’s nose.
7. Attach the top of the nose to the C and D tabs, match the corners at the nose.
8. Glue black construction paper under the eyes on the mask base.
9. Glue the top of the lion’s head to the mask base.
10. Cut slits in the ears according to the templates. Fold one side over the other so that the ear becomes slightly domed, then glue. Attach ears behind the mask base.
11. Punch holes before adding mane if you are going to attach with cord, yarn, or ribbon. Use a pencil or other item to punch again through any mane paper that blocks the hole.
12. Cut or tear paper for a mane and whiskers. Attach behind the mask base.

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Lion Mask Templates - Advanced

Lion Mask Template Base

*Cut one on heavy paper or cardstock*

1. Cut out shapes in construction paper. Cut base from heavy paper.
2. Transfer fold lines to back of paper. Score, cut, and fold.
3. Glue as indicated, matching tabs and letters.

Lion Ear

*cut line A then overlap flaps*
REYNOLDA

Lion Face Template

cut from construction paper

Middle part forehead and nose

tuck G behind E and F

Tab A
Glue Tab A behind A

Tab B
Glue Tab B behind B

Lion Face Left

Lion Face Right

Match fold with edge of nose

Glue under E

Glue under F

Animal Mask Templates