

Create your own Piñata

Instructions:

1. First put down some newspaper on your work area. Mix together flour and warm water in a big mixing bowl until the mixture is a gloopy consistency...just like pancake batter!
2. Blow up a balloon as big as you can (you may even want to get your parents to help you). Cut or tear newspaper into strips.
3. If you want to make a piñata that's a little more complicated, like a donkey or a rabbit, use cardboard and tape to add ears, legs or whatever you need to your balloon.
4. Now for the fun part! Dip and drag the strips of newspaper through the paste and cover your balloon. Add additional layers, letting each layer dry in between - if you make it too thick though it makes it hard to break, so two or three layers is usually enough.
5. Between layers tie your string or rope around the piñata with enough string leftover that you can hang it afterwards. The papier mache will hold it in place. It may take a while for your piñata to dry so you might want to start cleaning up and even go do something else before coming back to your art space.

Here's a handy trick: if you leave the tie of the balloon uncovered, it can make it easier to pop the balloon once it's dry so you can fill it with confetti or small candies!

Decorate:

Once your piñata is dry you can decorate it any way you want! Traditional Mexican piñatas used decorative tissue cut into squares and layered with glue to create a fun fringed effect! You can also paint your piñata.

