

# Verge DIY Kids Pack

Toddlers +

## Paper Clay

Paper Clay is a type of papier-mâché, or paper mache. You might have used paper mache to make masks or animal puppets. This is a great way to reuse scratch paper or old news paper, and a fun way to make air dry clay if you don't have any at home.

### What you'll need:

- A blender, immersion blender, or electric mixer
- Scratch paper or newspaper
- Hot water
- Flour or PVA glue (like Elmer's)
- 1 tablespoon salt
- Mixing bowl - size based on how much clay you want to make
- Acrylic paint and sealing medium, like mod podge. (optional)



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## Step one:

### Shred your paper

Take your choice of paper and shred the sheets into thin strips about 1 inch long. Newspaper will rip well but you might want to use scissors for printer paper.

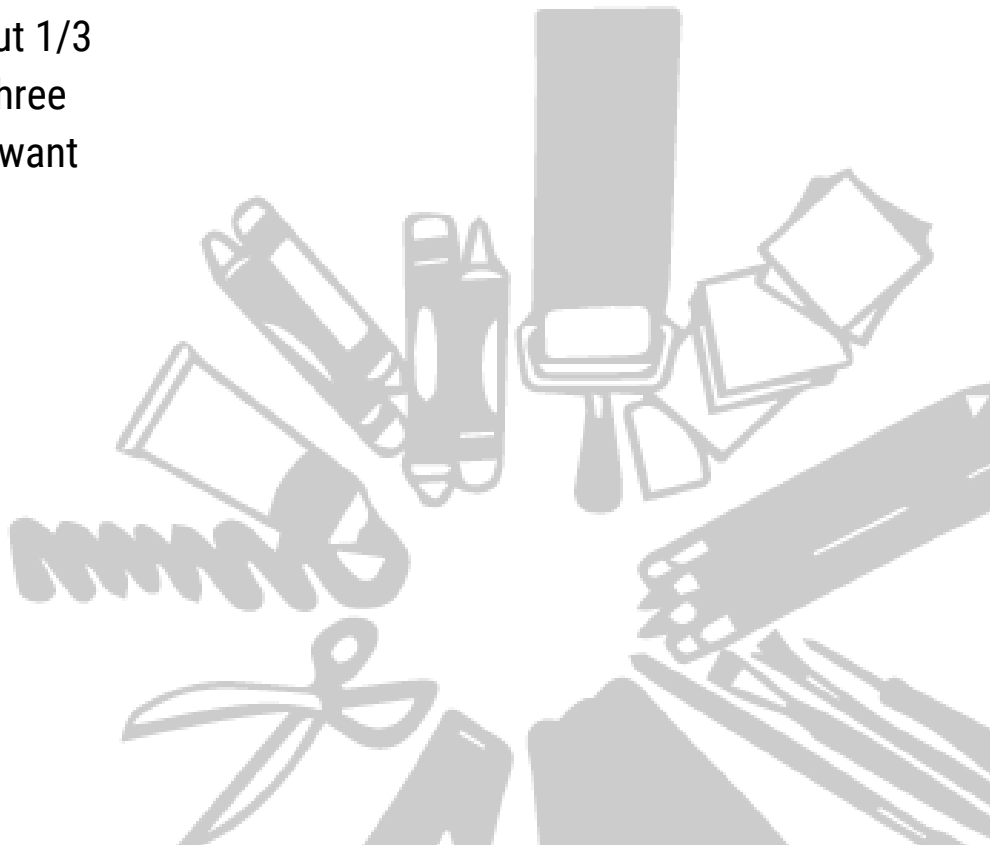
You may need an adult for this part!



### How much paper?

Shred enough paper to fill the mixing bowl 3/4 of the way full.

The finished clay will be about 1/3 of the dry volume, so shred three times as much paper as you want clay.



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## **Now mix it up!**

Pour hot water into mixing bowl to fully cover paper. Stir to ensure all paper is soaked.

**Let sit** for at least 3 hours.

The paper won't look very different than before, but the fibers are breaking down!

## **While You Wait...**

Brain storm ideas of what kinds of stuff you'll make with your clay!

Check out the artist profile to learn about another artists use paper!



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## Paper Artist Profile: Chie Hitotusyama



Chie Hitotusyama started her career as an illustrator before making a turn to three-dimensional sculptures. She works with discarded newspaper, inspired by her family's paper manufacturing plant where she grew up. She often creates life size sculptures of endangered animals using paper to bring awareness to environmental issues.

Her studio is located in Fuji city in Shizuoka, making use of the old warehouse of a paper strip manufacturing plant once operated by Hitotsuyama's family.

"Old thrown out newspapers attracted me as a medium, not only because they are easily obtained, but also, they are an accumulation of history and contain stories of human behavior. I see the correlation in how humans repeat their own histories as well as experience the cycles of life and death." - Chie Hitotsuyama.



<https://hitotsuyamastudio.com/>





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Please note: the example turned purple because scratch paper used had red ink.

## Step two:

### Blend!

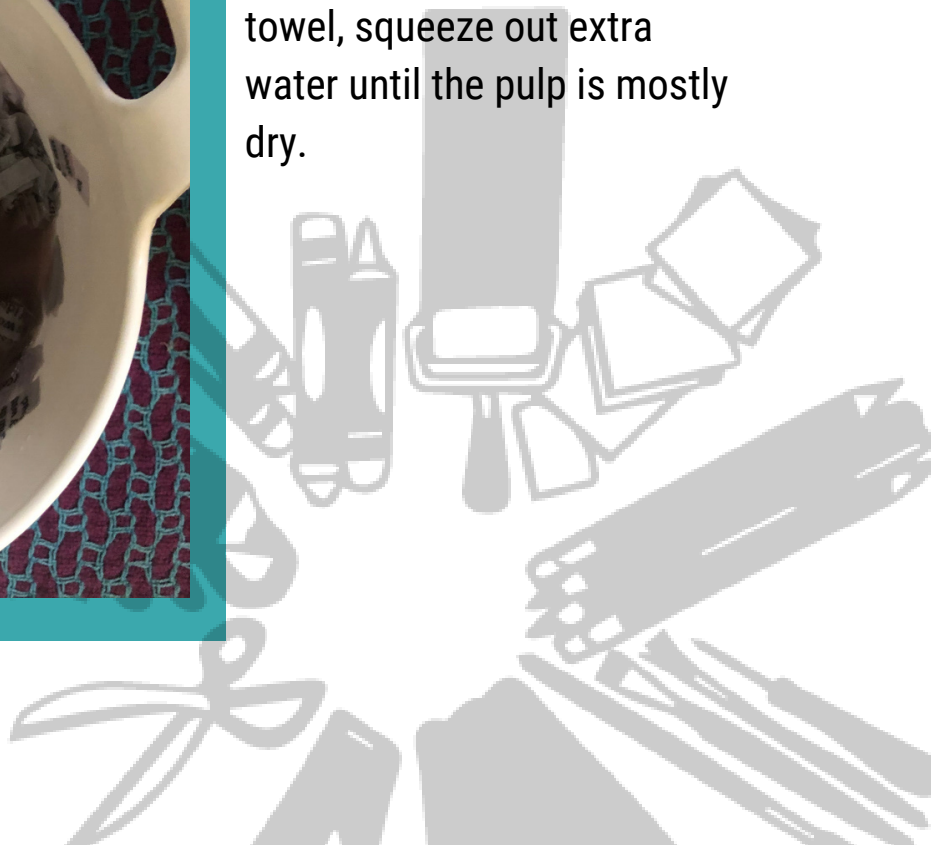
With a grown-up, use a blender or mixer to turn the paper into fine pulp - kind of like oatmeal!

Be careful that your blender doesn't overheat.



### Drain

Using your hands or a dish towel, squeeze out extra water until the pulp is mostly dry.



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## Step four:

### Combine

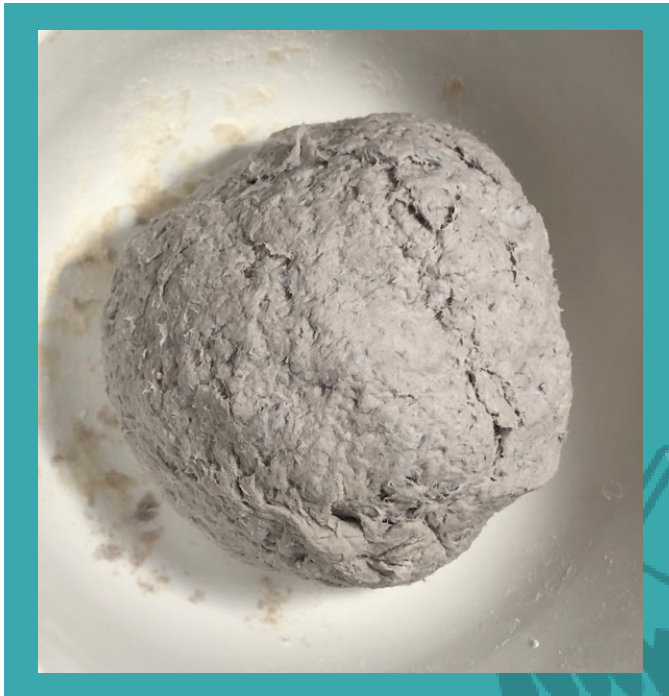
Sprinkle the top of the mixture with salt

Slowly add flour or PVA glue and mix with your hands until the paper mixture starts to stick together and not to your hands.

- Roughly a 2 parts pulp to 1 part flour ratio, so if you have 2 cups of pulp you'll add around 1 cup of flour



Add a small amount of water at a time as needed until you reach a clay-like consistency.



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## Step five:

**Use this clay to make anything you would make with regular air dry clay!**

Some ideas:

- Your favorite animal!
- A small bowl or cup (line with plastic wrap and mold inside)
- Pot for a plant (keep plastic nursery insert and remove for watering)
- Beads for a bracelet (use a stick to poke a whole through the middle)



**Leave out** in open air for the clay to dry and harden after you have it in the shape you want. This can take a couple of days.

**Paint** your finished piece with acrylic paint and coat with a gloss medium like mod podge or PVA glue

**Store** extra clay in an air-tight container in the fridge for up to 3 weeks. (Making sure to check for mold!)



**Post pictures of your art on social media with the hashtag #vergekidsDIY so we can share it!**

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