

Paper Mache Rope Balls for Enrichment

These fun balls can be made in whatever size of balloons are used:



Materials: Water
Flour
Natural (cotton, sisal, jute) string or twine*
Paper tape (painter's tape or masking tape)
Bucket or stock pot
Balloon(s)
Drop cloth or disposable tablecloth

*We recommend at least 1/8" diameter twine for 6" or larger balls. String may work for smaller balls. The larger the balloon diameter, the larger the twine.

How to:

1. This is a messy project! Set up your work area with a drop cloth or other disposable cover to protect table, floor, and surroundings. At least two people are recommended to work as a team for best results.
2. Mix up flour and warm water, about 1 part flour to 4 parts water, in a bucket or stock pot. The desired consistency is that of smooth pancake batter. Batter that is too thick will leave chunks on the string/rope; too thin will not set up – some trial and error may be necessary.
3. Blow up the balloon - careful not to make it so tight it will easily pop. Leave some flexibility so you can manipulate the balloon while making the ball.
4. Leaving a few inches dry at the end of the twine, then begin dipping it in the batter mix to coat completely as you unroll the twine. Do not cut the twine; try to continue working with one piece for the entire project if possible to add strength to the finished ball.
5. Use one small piece of tape to secure the end to the balloon, then begin wrapping the balloon with the wet twine, rotating the balloon as you go to begin to create the ball.
6. Continue wrapping the ball with enough twine to make it sturdy (once the balloon is popped and removed) but leaving enough gaps that treats can be inserted into the hollow ball when complete.
7. Allow the balloon ball to dry for at least 24 hours. When fully dry, pop the balloon and remove all of it, as well as the paper tape to leave a completed twine ball.

Black Pine Animal Sanctuary

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