

UP

UP

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AWAY!

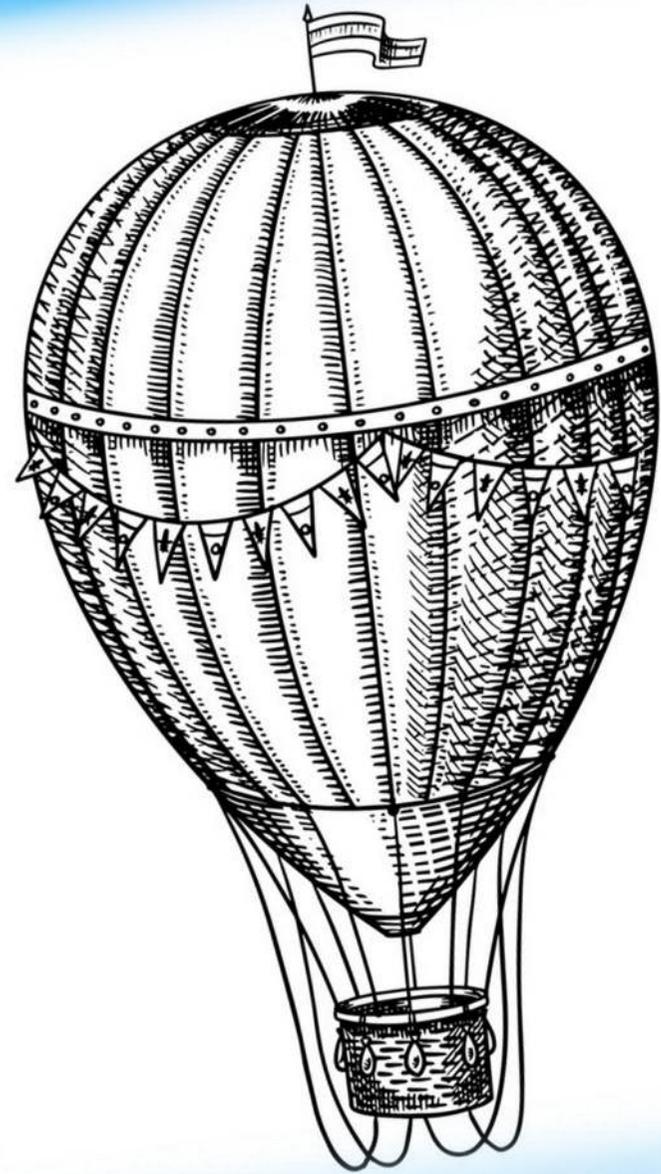


Created by Eve Williams Creative Learning and Public Programs Officer  
Devonport Regional Gallery



# TASK:

Create and decorate a model hot air balloon using Paper Mache, Paper and string.



## A bit about the history of hot air balloons...

On 19th of September 1783 Pilatre De Rozier, a scientist, launched the first ever hot air balloon called *Aerostat Reveillon*. The passengers were a sheep, a duck and a rooster. The flight only lasted 15 minutes. The first human passenger attempt was made two months later by two French brothers, Joseph and Etienne Montgolfier. Their balloon was launched from the centre of Paris and the flight lasted 20 minutes... and thus this was the official birth of hot air ballooning!

Two years later in 1785 a French hot air balloonist, Jean Pierre Blanchard and his American co pilot, John Jeffries, became the first to fly across the English channel. In these early days the channel was considered the first step to long distance ballooning, so this was a benchmark!

Many many years later in 1935 an altitude record was set of 72, 395 feet above the surface of the earth, or 22,048.01 metres! For the first time in history it was proven that humans could survive in a pressurised chamber at extremely high altitudes . This flight set a milestone for aviation and helped pave the way for future space travel.

Sourced from: <http://www.eballoon.org/history/history-of-ballooning.html>



*Some inspiration from others...*



*Some inspiration from others...*



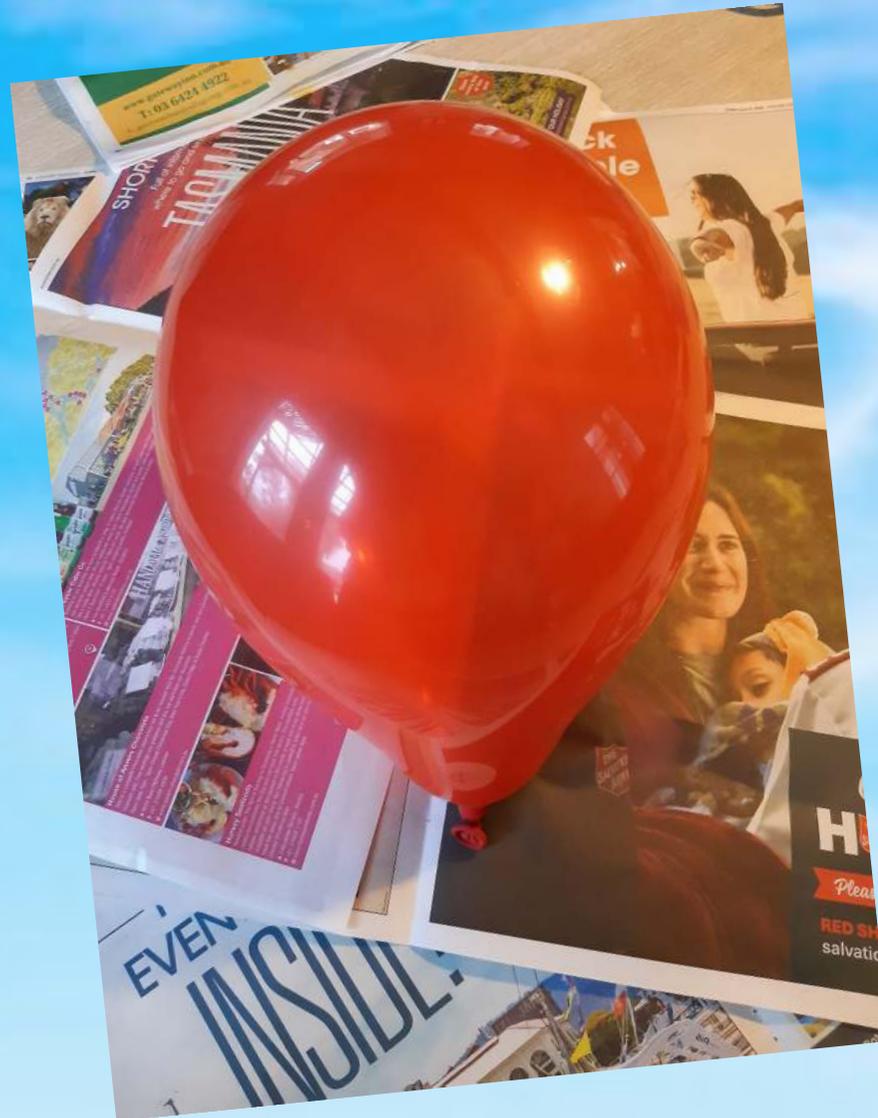
## You Will Need:

- X1 balloon
- Cel Mix or Paper Mache glue
- Newspaper
- String or ribbon
- X1 A4 paper or card
- X1 A3 paper or card
- Glue, sticky tape
- scissors
- Paper, foil, Paper Mache or anything to create your passengers
- Paint, tissue paper or any other materials for decorating your balloon
- Fishing line or string for hanging
- Skewer or toothpick for hanging



## Step 1 : Paper Mache Balloon.

Mix up your Cel mix or paper Mache glue. See following pages for how to...



## **Paper Mache Glue Recipe**

### **What you need**

- flour
- water
- mixing bowl
- spoon

### **Method**

Mix one part flour with one part of water (eg, 1 cup flour and 1 cup water, or 1/2 cup flour and 1/2 cup water) until you get a thick glue-like consistency. Add a bit more water if it's too thick.

Mix well with a spoon to get rid of all the lumps. If you find you are getting lumps in your glue, you can use a small kitchen electric mixer to whiz them out.

Add a few tablespoons of salt to the final mixture to help prevent mould.

### **NOTES:**

- You need to use strips of newspaper only, or even paper tissues or towels.
- Let the newspaper strips soak in the Paper Mache glue a little before using.
- Cover your artwork with only 2-3 layers, then let dry completely. This is an important step.
- Once a layer is dry you can add 2-3 more layers, remembering to let each layer dry before adding the next one.
- The final layer can be plain paper - so it's easier to paint - but use the thinnest paper possible and make sure it's soaked well in the Paper Mache glue.

Recipe sourced from: <https://www.kidspot.com.au/things-to-do/activity-articles/make-paper-mache-glue/news-story/ceb59e78216f566a15b75932462f274c>

## **Mixing up Cel Mix Paper Mache Glue**

***(available in materials packages from paranaple arts centre front counter)***

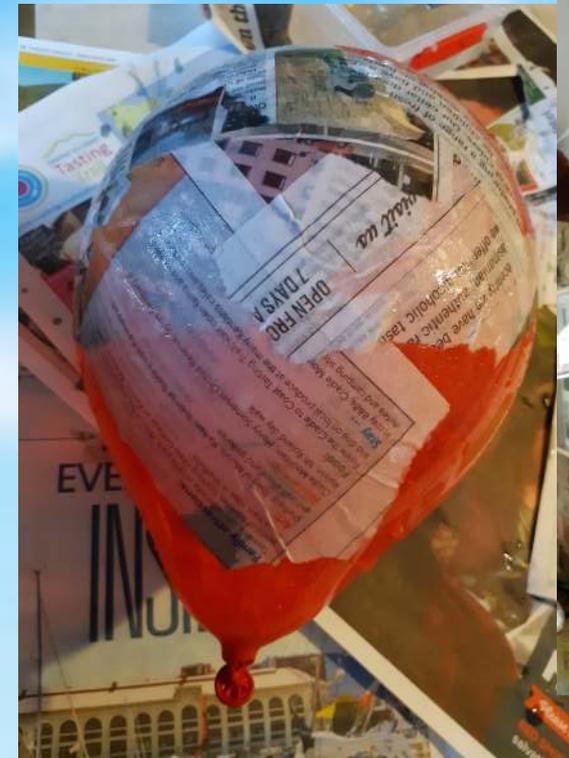
- *Fill container with 500ml water*
- ***While stirring*** *sprinkle entire Mix Cel Mix contents (1 teaspoon/ 5 grams approx.)*
- *Stir until all the lumps are dissolved*
- *Allow to sit for 10-20 minutes at least before using.*

## Step 2: Paper Mache Balloon

Blow up your balloon until it reaches your desired size and shape. Put down a drop sheet or newspaper to catch your mess.

Tear up pieces of newspaper, dip them into the glue, scrape off excess with your fingers and coat entire surface of your blown up balloon. Smooth down carefully with your hands as you go. Pay extra attention to the area around the bottom of the balloon where it is tied up and the very top as your Paper Mache needs to be strong here. When finished hang your balloon up to dry overnight.

*Tip: Coat your blown up balloon in Vaseline first so it comes away from your Paper Mache easily.*



### Step 3: Paper Mache Balloon.

Once the first coat of Paper Mache is dry, take down your balloon and repeat the Paper Mache process from step 2 for the second coat. Give it a third coat if it still feels thin and weak in places after the first coat. Leave it to dry for decorating . In the meantime you can make your basket.

*Tip: Make sure you have a good few thick coats of dried Paper Mache before piercing and taking out you balloon!*



## Step 4: Make your basket (may need adult assistance)

Start with 8 strips of 2cm wide by 24cm long pieces of paper.

Measure out and cut out of the A4 piece of paper. You can colour/ paint your paper first and let it dry if you want to add some colour to your basket.



Measure and cut out 2cm width strips in your A4 piece of paper



Measure each strip to be 24cm in length

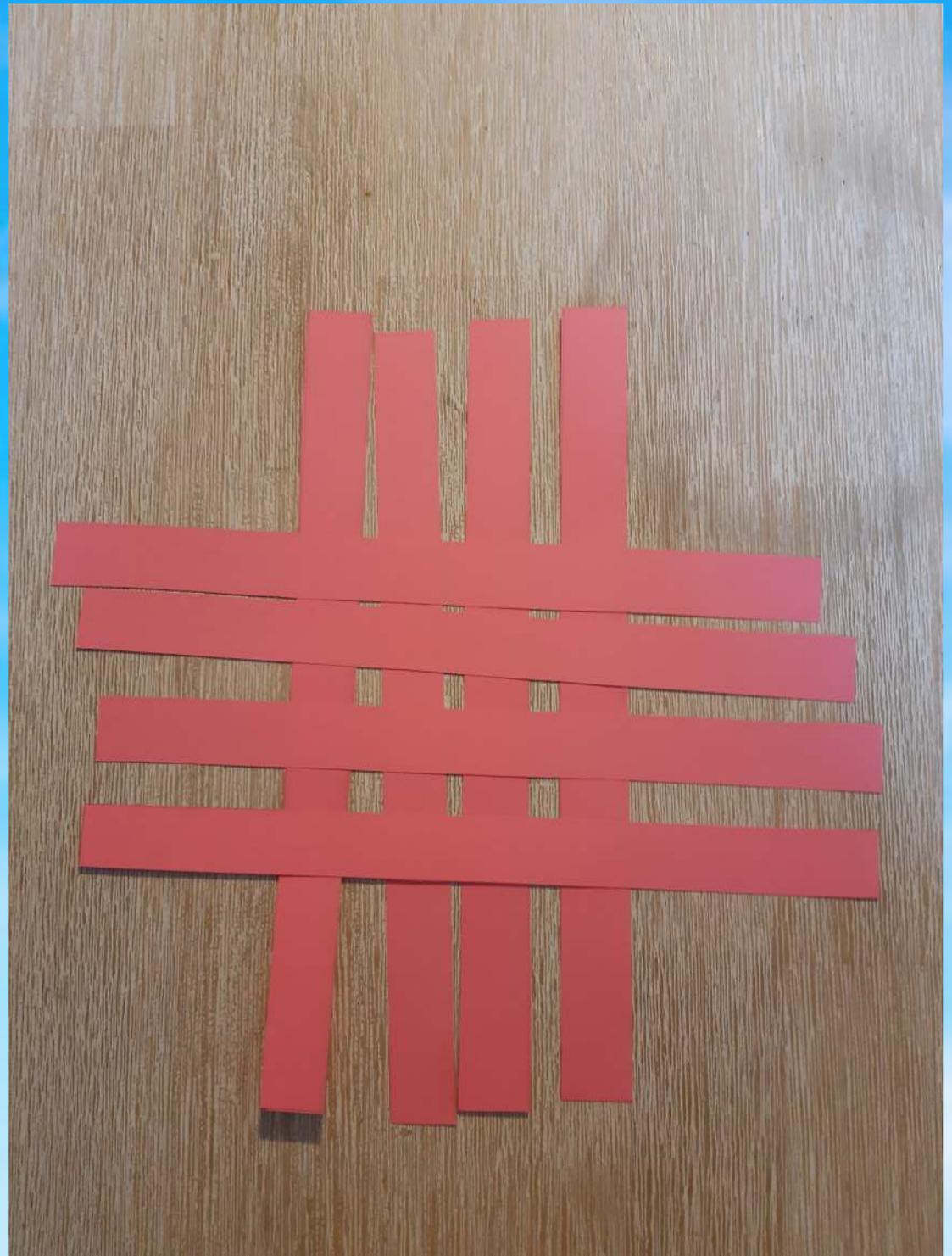


Cut out x8 strips

## **Step 5: Make your basket (may need adult assistance)**

Lay 4 strips over the top of the other 4 strips forming a cross.

Lay your 8 strips in a cross pattern as pictured

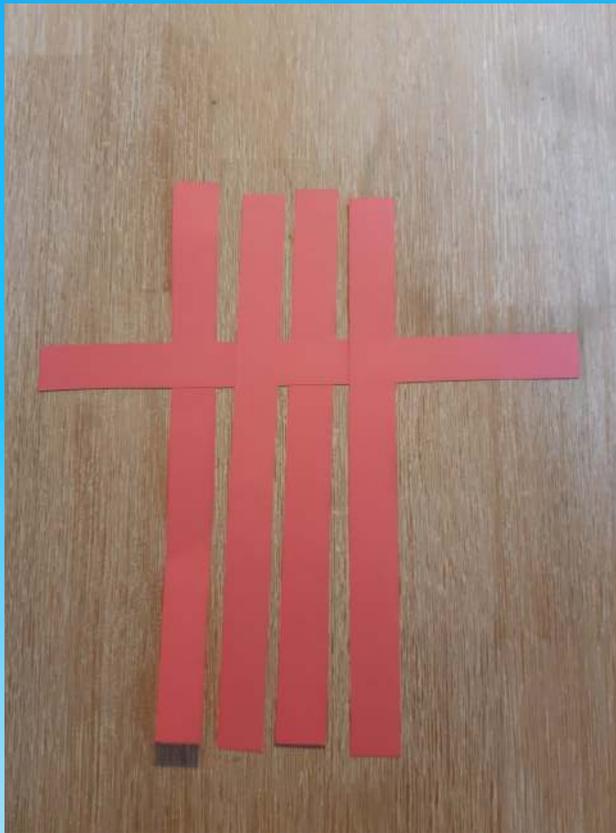


## Step 6: Make your basket.

Weave together your strips of paper until about half way along leaving spare at the ends for the sides of the basket.

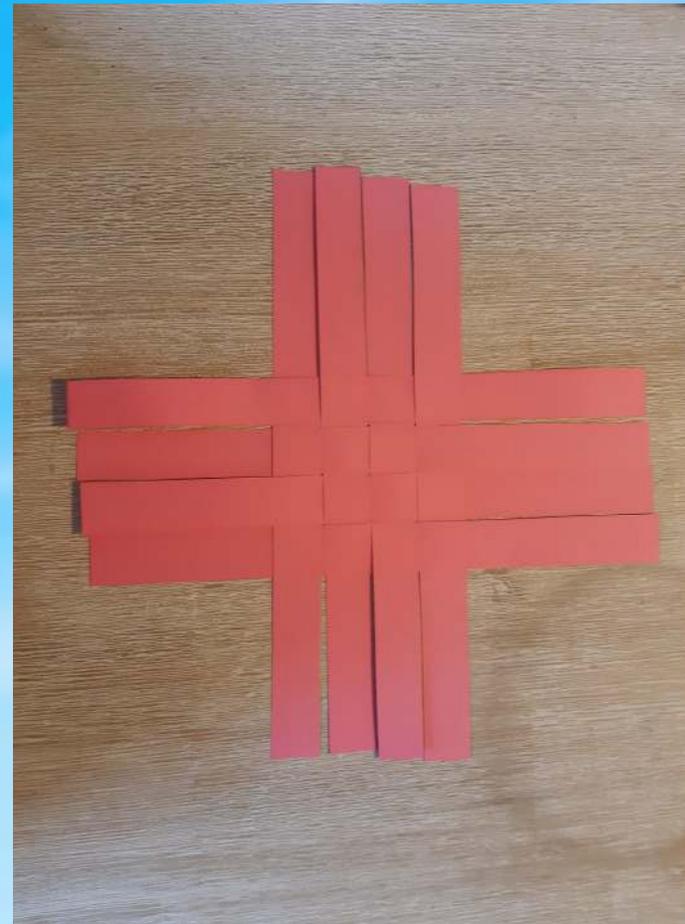
See a YouTube tutorial here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sm\\_1L-h0xu0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sm_1L-h0xu0)



Weave each strip over then under then over then under.

Start each row the opposite to the one above.  
Keep it neat and tucked in tight as you go.

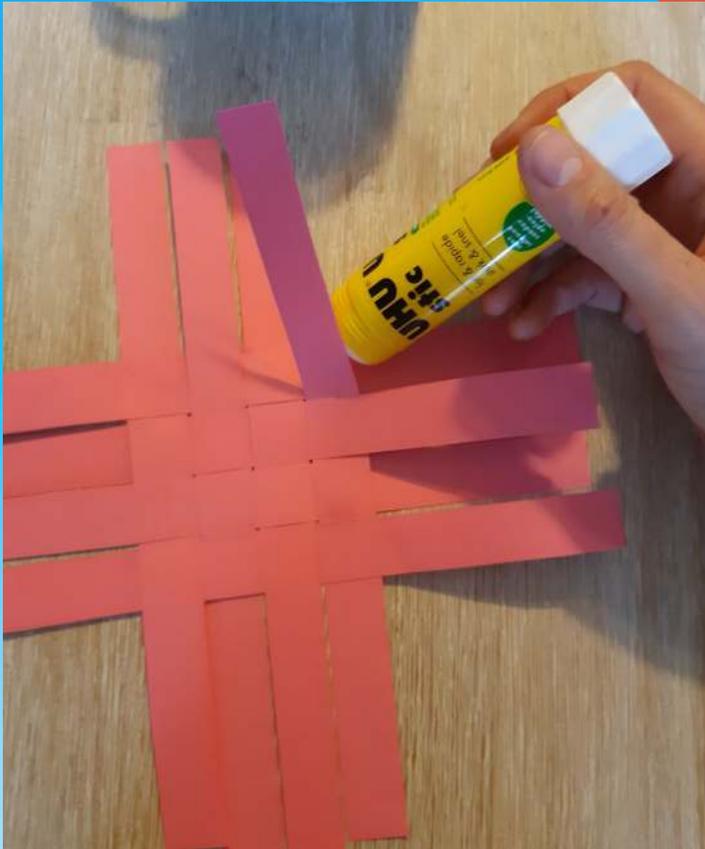


Leave about half the length of the strips for the sides of your basket.

## Step 7: Make your basket.

Glue all the loose edges of your strips.

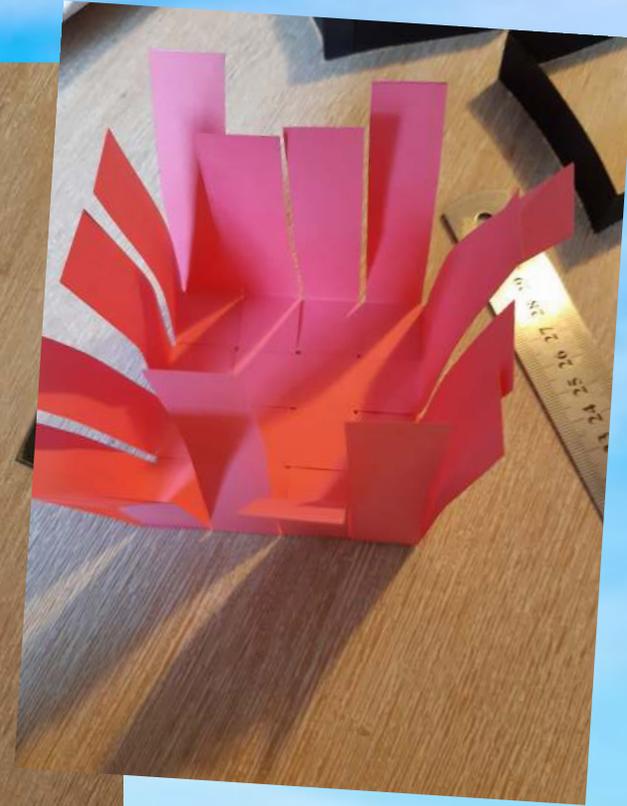
Lay a ruler over the edges of your weaved strips and fold upwards.



Glue all the loose edges of your woven strips down.



Use a ruler to help fold the edges of your basket up.



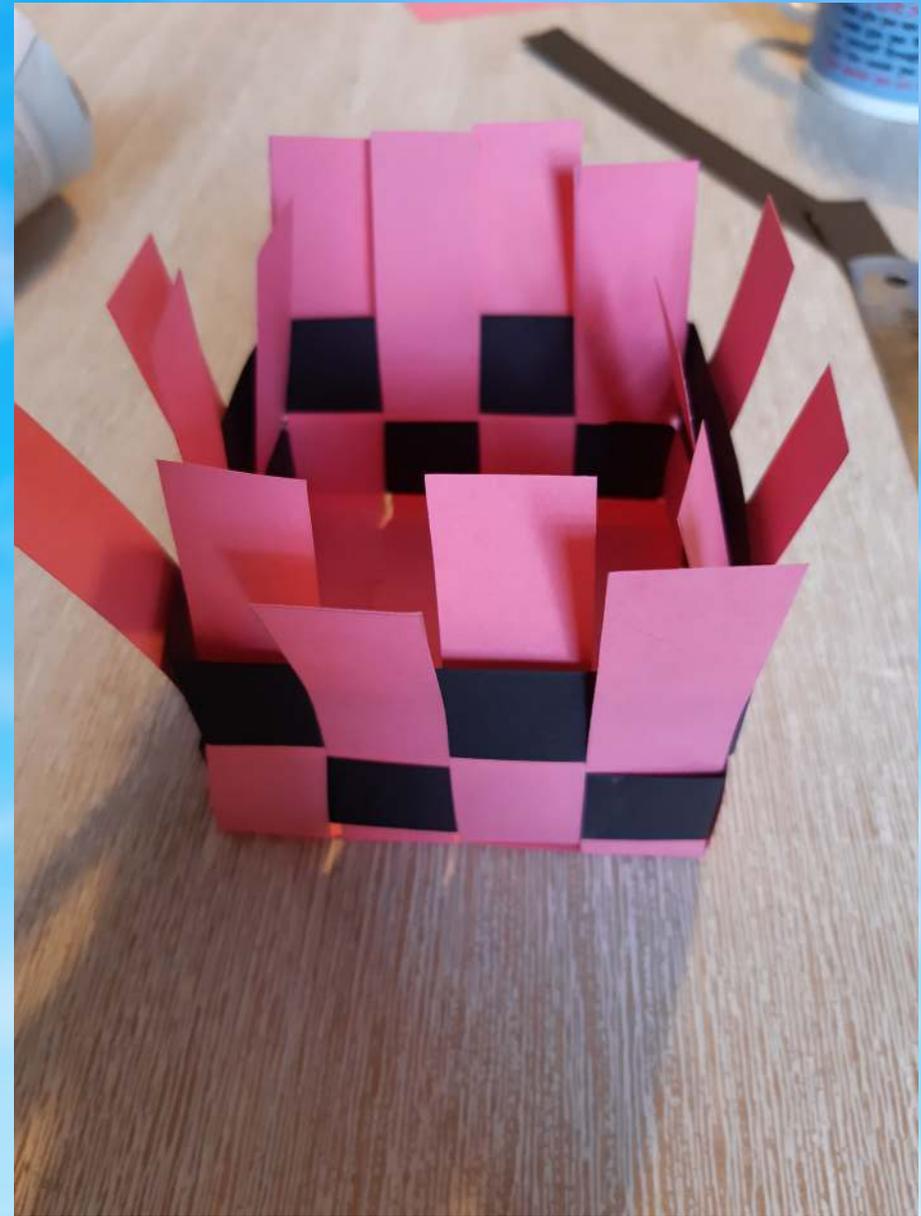
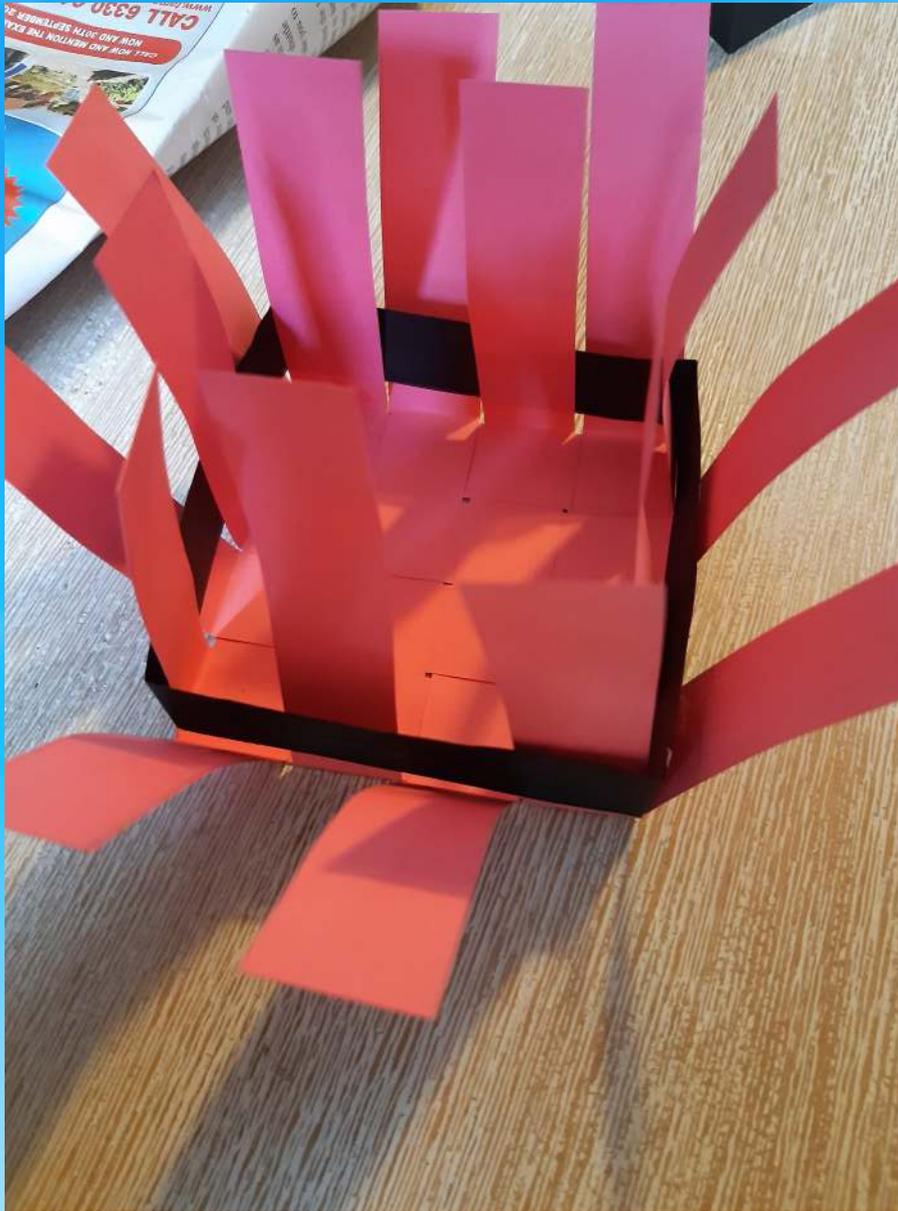
## Step 8: Make your basket

Make three or four (depending how deep you want your basket and what will fit) paper squares to weave through for the sides of your basket.

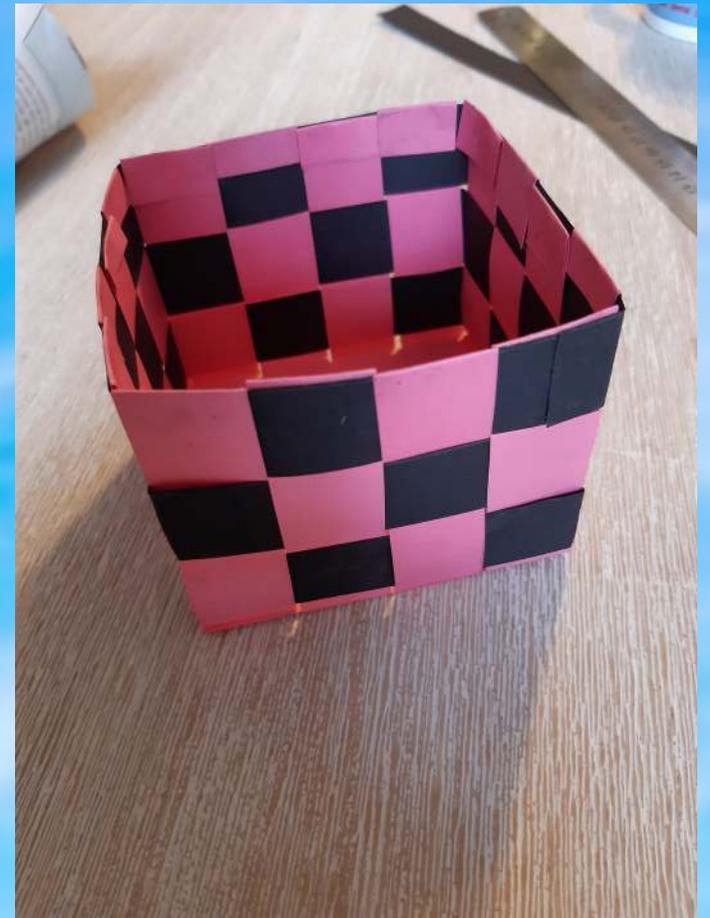
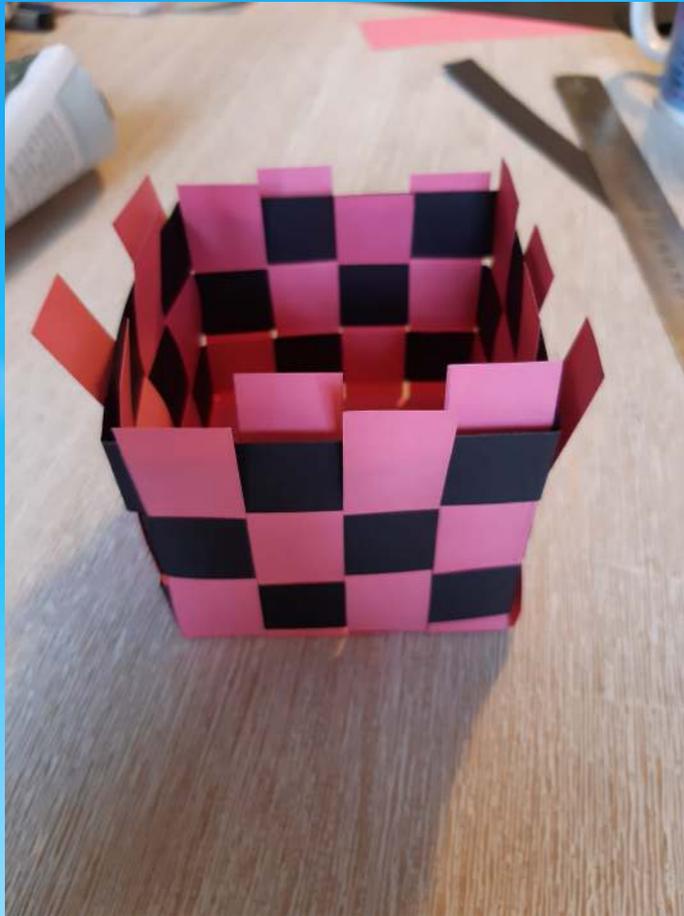
Make 3 (or 4) strips of paper 2cm wide by 34cm long (use the A3 paper) and glue together into a square shape to fit your basket. Measure the width of the base of your basket, (the pieces you have already woven) this will give you the measurement for how big to make the square sides. Measure along your 2cm x 34cm strips and put a mark where it needs to be folded (about 8cm).

Fold and glue into a square shape and weave each one through as shown in the video (link to video on previous page).





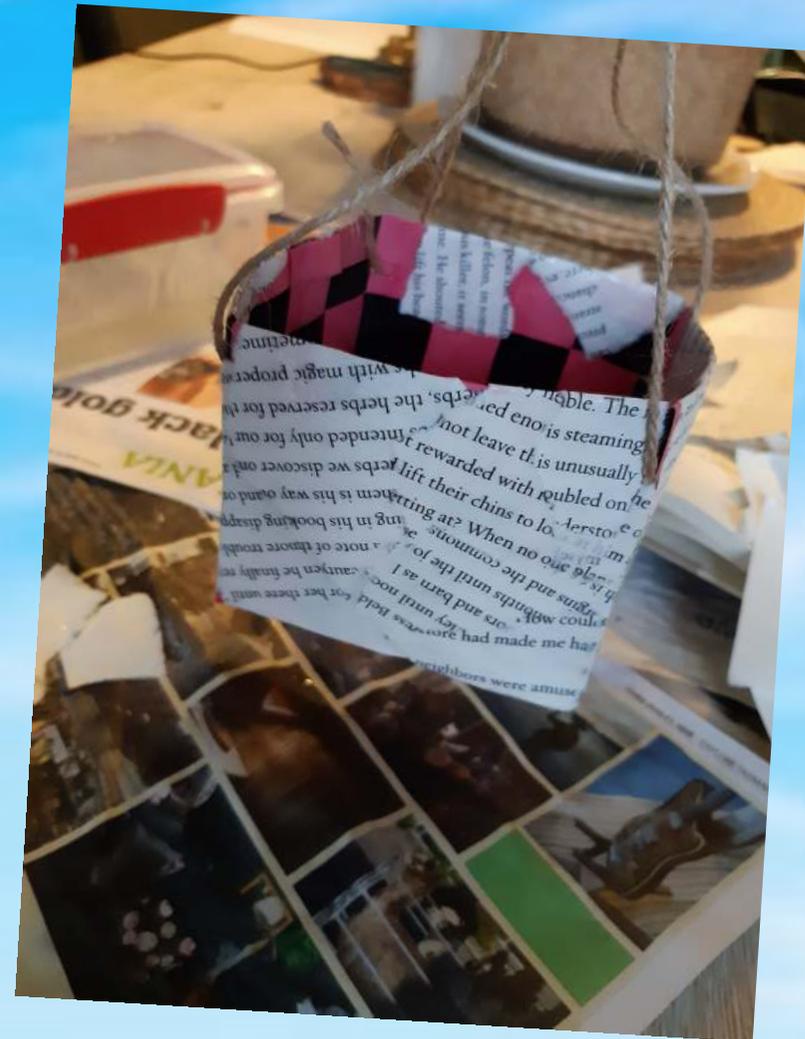
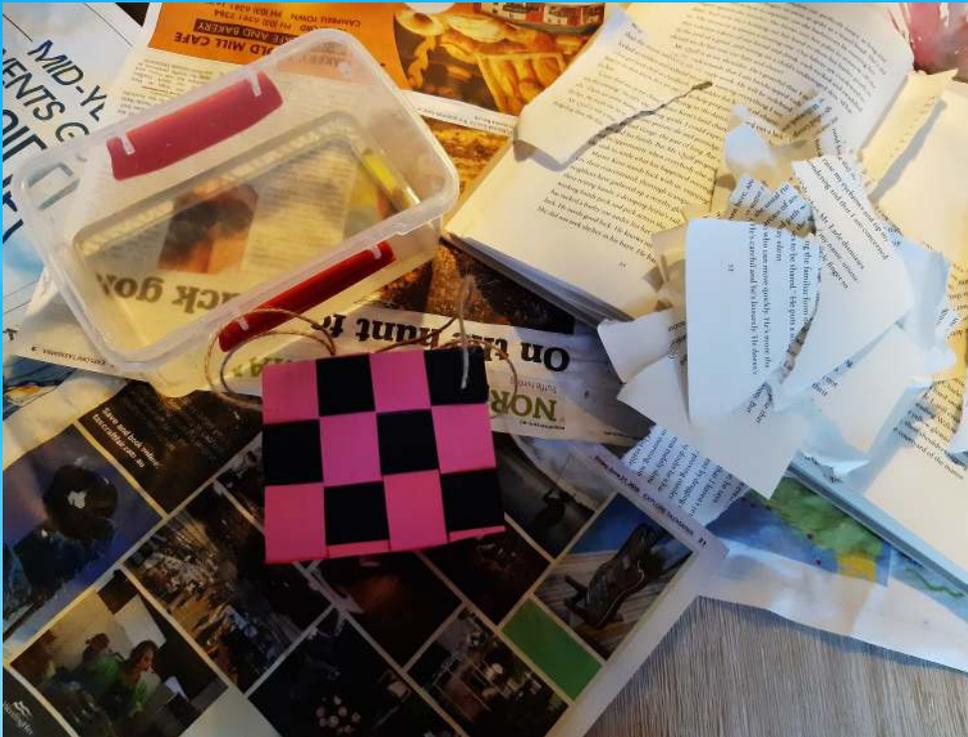
Weave your Squares over and under and over and under your strips to create the baskets sides as shown.



Continue to weave your squares into the sides of your basket as shown. Glue down all the loose ends and fold over.

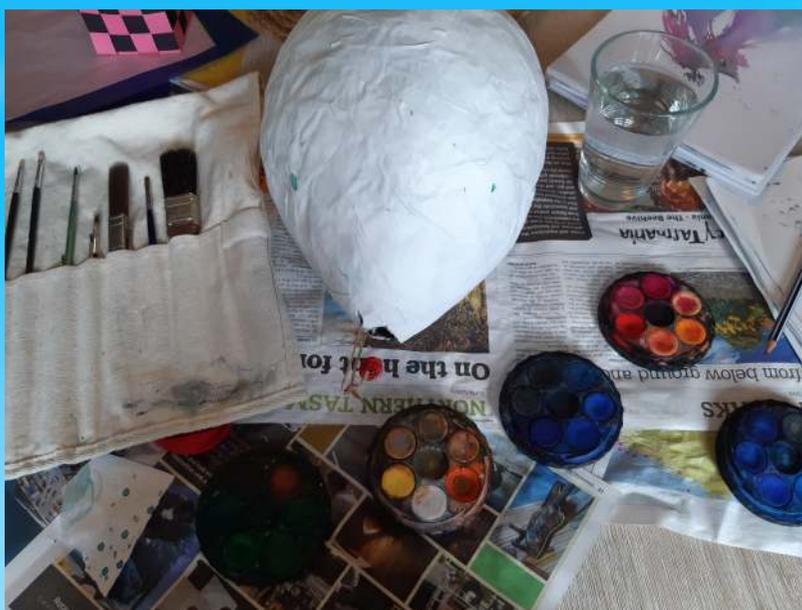
## Step 9: Decorate your basket (optional)

Once you have made your woven paper basket you may decorate it as you wish or leave it as it is. You might like to paint it or Paper Mache over it as I have done.



## Step 10: Decorate your balloon.

Once your Paper Mache balloon has dried, decorate the outside however you wish. You might like to use the rest of your Paper Mache glue and cover it with colourful tissue paper. You can paint it, cover it with white paper and draw/ paint on it, or use a combination of materials to decorate it (mixed media.)



## Step 11: Create your passengers

Who is riding in your balloon?

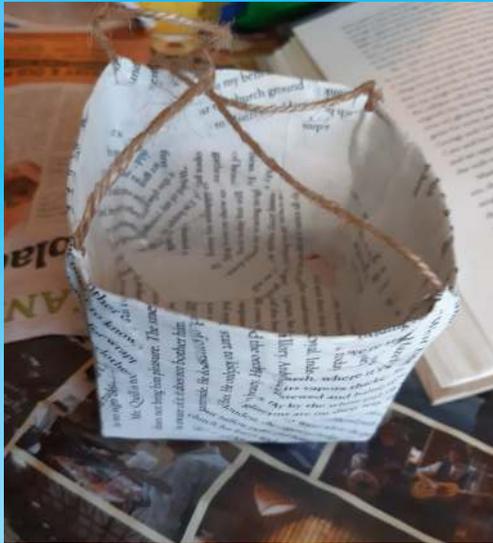
It's up to you how you create your passengers. You might like to draw some characters on paper, cut them out and stick them in the basket. You could create a foil figure and use paper Mache to cover them then paint them, you might have some toys and figurines around the house that you would like to use. It's up to you. Use your imagination and get creative with whatever you have on hand!



## Step 12: Put it all together

Use string or ribbon to attach your basket to your balloon.

- ◆ Use 4 pieces of string to tie each corner of the basket and bring them to a central point and tie all pieces together.
- ◆ Cut the bottom tied part of your paper Mache covered balloon off. Carefully attach (sticky tape, or glue, or tie through holes) pieces of string that will connect to your basket.
- ◆ Tie the strings from your balloon to the strings from your basket.

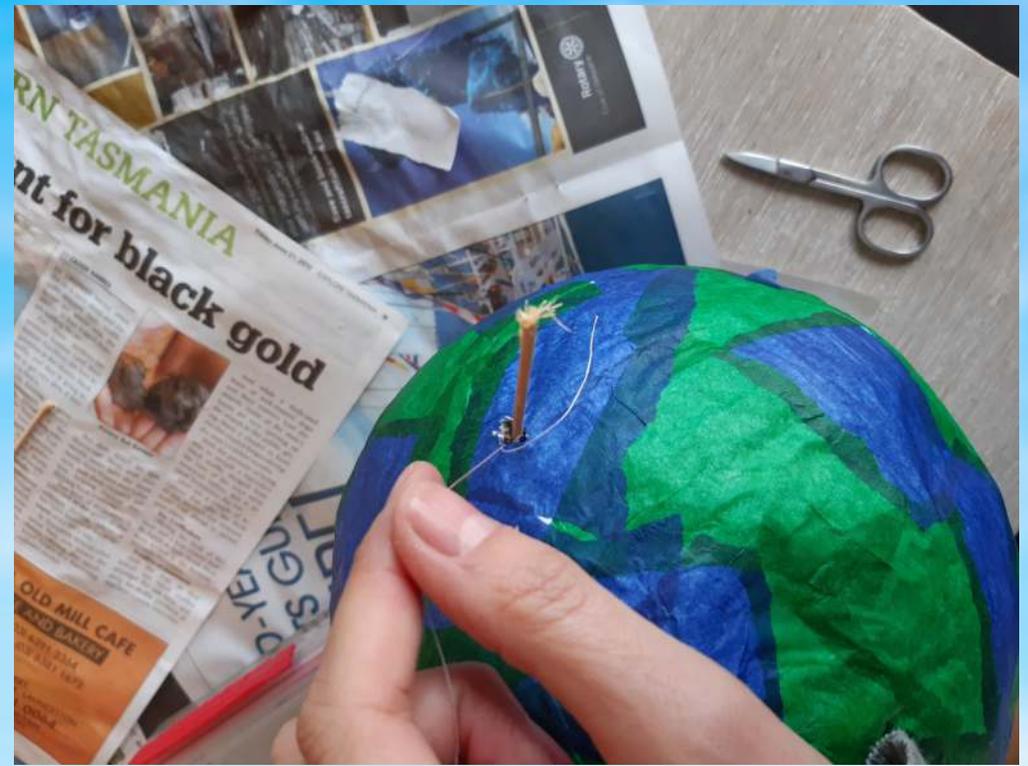


## Step 13: Hang it up

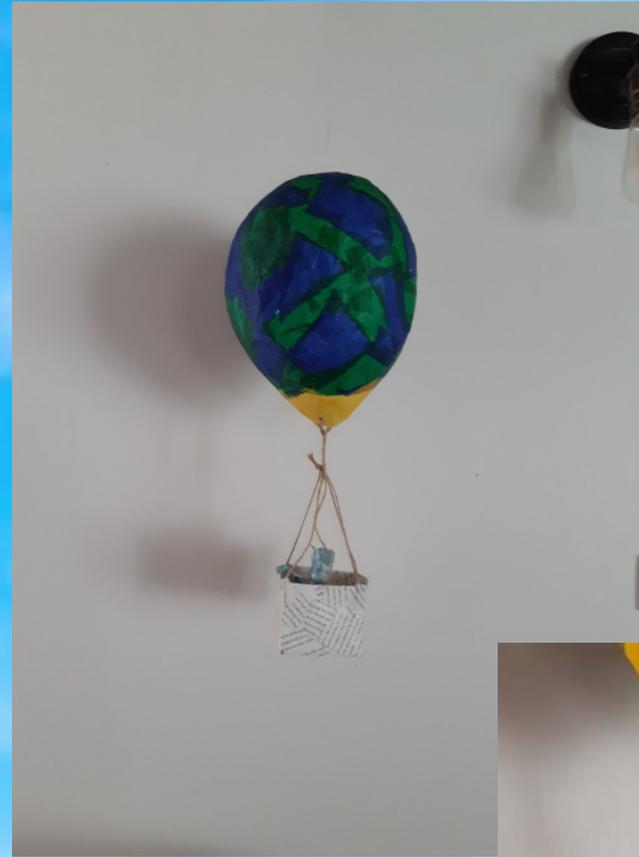
Tie a long piece of cotton thread or fishing line around a wooden skewer, toothpick or thin stick. Make a hole in the centre top of your balloon. Push the skewer with tied thread/ line through the hole. The stick/ skewer should stop the thread from pulling back out of the small hole.



Tie thread or fishing line around a skewer/ toothpick



Make a small hole in the centre top of the balloon carefully with scissors and push the skewer/ thread through.



My completed hot air balloon.



# SHARE YOUR CREATIONS!

Send in pictures of your Hot Air Balloon creations to:

[ARTGALLERY@DEVONPORT.TAS.GOV.AU](mailto:ARTGALLERY@DEVONPORT.TAS.GOV.AU)

Ps- Keep your work somewhere safe for an upcoming exhibition for pieces created as part of the Home is Where the 'Art is project at the Devonport Regional gallery!