Brevard County Libraries

Summer Reading Program 2022!

In this week's Teen Craft Packet, our theme is Seven Seas, Infinite Stories! Use papier mâché to create an ocean rock straight out of a coral reef. Map out your own story by painting symbols on your ocean rock.

Craft Packets contain a list of supplies and instructions. These packets can be picked-up at any branch within Brevard County during the week of the related theme and are available for curbside service.

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Storytime, STEAM, Craft, and Teen Packets developed by the Youth Services Department

Ocean Story Rocks

Supplies

Cardboard
Paper (newspaper works best)
Bowl
Water
Glue
Measuring Cup
Tablespoon
Scissors
Tape
Small container (i.e. plastic cup)
Paint (black, white, and bright colors of your choosing)

Directions:

Cut the cardboard into 4 rectangular pieces of varying sizes. The largest piece should be around 8 x 4 inches, while the smallest piece should be around 6 x 4 inches.

Cut the corners of your cardboard sheets so that they are all rounded. Also cut around the entire sheet to ensure there are no straight lines. The cardboard is going to make up the outline of your rock, so you want it to look natural. In the picture below, the right and bottom sides of the cardboard have already been cut to look rounded and natural, while the top and left sides have not yet been touched.

Stack your pieces of cardboard based on size. The largest piece should be on the bottom and the smallest piece on top. Remember, you want it to look natural, so make sure to not align their edges.

Tape the cardboard pieces together.

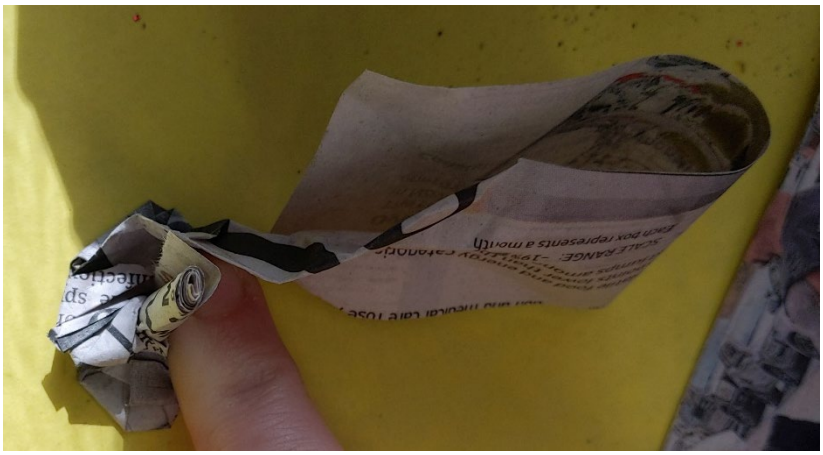
Mix 2 tablespoons of glue with ¼ cup water in a bowl of water.

Rip pieces of paper into small strips of various sizes. Try to make them between 1 and 1-1/2 inches width and 3-5 inches in length.

Dip individual paper strips into glue/water mixture and then immediately layer strips onto your stack of cardboard sheets. Make sure to smooth the paper strips down and wrap the strips around corners and into gaps.

After you are finished completely covering the front and sides of your cardboard stack, create coral tubes to your rock by rolling strips of paper into small tubes, dipping them into the glue/water mixture, and then sticking them onto the cardboard. If necessary, you can tape these down.

Add barnacles to your rock by folding a strip of paper around a center point until out of paper. (Tip: use one of the small coral tubes as the center of which to fold the paper around and then remove the coral tube at the end). Then stick the barnacle to the rock. If necessary, you can tape these down.



Once you have finished covering your cardboard and adding any barnacles and coral tubes you wish to add, sit the bottom of the stack (which should be uncovered) on a plastic container. Let your creation sit for 24 hours to dry.

After 24 hours, you are ready to paint your cardboard and make it look like a rock! Cover the front and sides of cardboard with white paint. Once completely covered, mix black and white paint together and add a thin layer of this grey mix onto your creation. Keep painting until you are happy with how your rock looks. It should look similar to a gray stone.

While still wet, sprinkle sand on your rock.

After you are painting your cardboard rock, sit the bottom of the rock (which should be unpainted) on a plastic container. Let your creation sit for 24 hours to dry.

After 24 hours, you are ready to paint a symbol on your rock! Use a bright color to paint a symbol on your rock. This could be anything – a Kraken, mermaid, skull & crossbones, etc. Tell whatever story you want with your rock!

Web Resources

How to Make Paper Mache:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LiSMinmcN4c

Books

A Crack in the Sea (2017) by H. M. Bouwman (YA)

Aquaman: Unspoken Waters (2018) by Kelly Sue DeConnick (YA/adult)

The Iliad: A Graphic Novel Adapatation (2019) by Gareth Hinds (YA)