

GIANT PAPER POPPIES

Materials Needed:

3 each Coffee Filter Paper 21" Diameter
1 each Coffee Filter Paper 15-1/2" Diameter
Prang® Semi Moist Watercolors
Black Glitter
3/8" X 36" Hardwood Dowels
Mighty Tacky® Glue
Newspaper (one sheet per flower)
Rubberbands (one per flower)
Floral Tape

Optional:

Colossal Bump Chenille Stems

Equipment & Other Supplies:

2 liter bottles
Large soft brush
Plastic to protect painting surface
Shallow dish / Soap & Water for clean-up.

Grade Level: 1st Through 12th

Project Time: 30 Minutes Plus Drying time.

General Overview: Large paper flowers are a great project – fast & easy and always a show stopper for either general decorating or special occasions. Paint petals, centers and leaves – let dry. Assemble flowers and attach to stems – ready to arrange. Prang® Semi-Moist Watercolors with the absorbent filter paper make flowers that are unbelievably vivid – Filter paper accepts and holds the color like nothing else. Try other color combinations and forms for even more spectacular results!

Standard: any age can paint and initially assemble. Under 4th grade may require a bit of assistance with assembly onto stem. Jr High should be able to manage simple variations without further suggestions – only a bit of research on floral shapes. High School should be able to make in several sizes – and combine into arrangements.

Vocabulary: Petals, pistils, stamens, stems. California Poppies, iris, sunflowers, carnation, sweet peas. Leaves.

PLEASE read all instructions, assemble materials and prepare work space BEFORE you start this project.

- 1. Painting Petals:** On plastic protected surface, lay down 3 layers of 21" Filters, somewhat smoothed out/flat. Apply water to work with soft brush to liquefy red watercolor; apply to outer edge of filter paper circle about 4" or 5" wide. Keep adding more water – and spread the watercolor on the filter anyplace it seems to be too thick. Paint will soak through all layers. Do not worry about making it "even" or precise. Wet down the orange cake and apply orange color to the remaining white center of the filter paper. Colors will bleed together where they meet, feel free to add more water to make them bleed together. Occasional drips and drops of color in the other area add to the dimension of the flower – don't worry about them. Peel filter paper circles apart and drape over the 2-liter bottle (you may want to fill it with water and cap it for stability) one at a time to dry. If you find you have some white spots – touch them up- lightly.
- 2. Painting Centers:** Using smaller filters – 15-1/2" stack and paint black. Separate and drape to dry.
- 3. Painting Leaves:** For each Poppy - one smaller and one larger filter is recommended. Make more if more leaves are desired. Layer and paint as with petals and center. Paint green in the same manner as petals and center. Fold in half and drape to dry. Paint dowel for stem.
- 4. Center Sub-Assembly:** Lay black painted filter flat. Take a large full sheet of newspaper and crumple into a ball. Place ball in the center of the filter. Bring filter up and around covering the newspaper ball completely – strangle it and secure with a rubber band as you would a child's ponytail. Fold back the "ponytail" to form a ruffle around the ball. Push flat on the bottom. Spray ruffle with Adhesive or drizzle with glue and sprinkle with black glitter. Let stand for several minutes and shake to remove excess – return excess to glitter container.
- 5. Petal Sub-Assembly:** Layer 2 or 3 (depending on fullness desired) Red/Orange petal filters. Push down at center – grasp layered center and twist to form a tail. Holding the tail, flatten out petal centers, allowing edges to ruffle. Wrap tail with floral tape onto dowel, previously painted green. Wrap several inches down onto the stem for solid attachment.
- 6. Poppy Center:** drizzle glue into flattened open center of poppy. Smoosh flattened side of center assembly into it and squish petals up and around into it. Hold for about a minute while glue starts to set.
- 7. Leaves & Tendrils:** Lay green filter flat. Drizzle with glue and lay bump chenille or pipe cleaner down center line. Fold over leaving a bit of the chenille exposed. Press to seal. Wrap chenille around dowel to form curly tendrils if desired. Position leaves and tendrils as desired and attach by wrapping with floral tape – as you did with the flower head.
- 8. Final Primping:** The flower is assembled – gently pull and adjust petals and leaves to arrange to visual taste. Poppies can be displayed singly or in groups. If no stems are desired simply wrap the tail end of the twisted filter with the floral tape – and either lay about or stick into foam as use dictates.

Poppies come in a wide array of colors – so feel free to adjust the color combinations to your taste. Other floral shapes easily made are sunflowers (yellow petals – snipped and brown centers – more flat- less newspaper and snip the edges instead of glitter) Assemble the outer petals off center to form either iris or sweetpeas – the centers can simply be bump chenille alone. Roll the petals without centers – overlapping for roses – pink the edges and simply fan several filters for carnations – especially nice with just the edges tipped with color.

