



Totem Poles

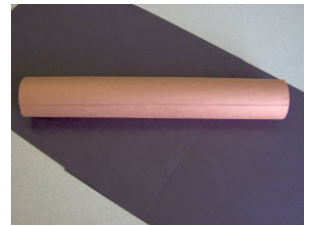
Reaching up to 175 ft., every totem pole tells a story. Most historians believe totem poles were used by Indian tribes on the east coast of the United States from Washington into Canada to tell the story of the tribe's lineage from one ancestor creature to the next. The Native Americans believed that they were descendent from different animal species. As the Indian tribes began to move around and grow economically, totem poles became more common, reminding tribes of their rich heritage. Totem poles were made of red cedar trees and often placed outside of wealthy family homes in the community. Even today, carving totem poles is a time-honored tradition. In today's lesson you can carve your own family tradition as you make a totem pole out of paper!

Materials

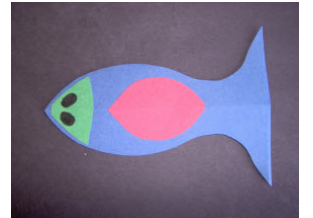
- cardboard tube
- construction paper
- glue stick or school glue
- pencil
- scissors
- marker

Instructions

1. Use a sheet of brown construction paper to cover the cardboard tube. (An alternative is to color the tube with a brown crayon).



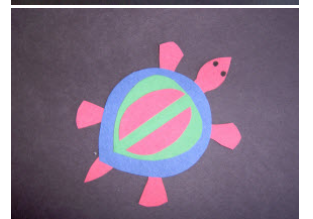
2. Cut shapes out of construction paper for the animals. It helps to draw the shapes in pencil first, and then cut out around the pencil lines.



3. Larger shapes can be used for animal bodies while smaller shapes can be used for the eyes, beaks, wing decorations, etc.



4. Glue the animal parts together and allow the glue to dry.



5. Stack the animals on the cardboard tube. On totem poles, the thunderbird is often at the top. The largest animal is usually on the bottom.

6. You may choose an animal that you feel represents you and your family. There are many sites on the Internet that refer to totem poles and the meanings that the animals represent.

