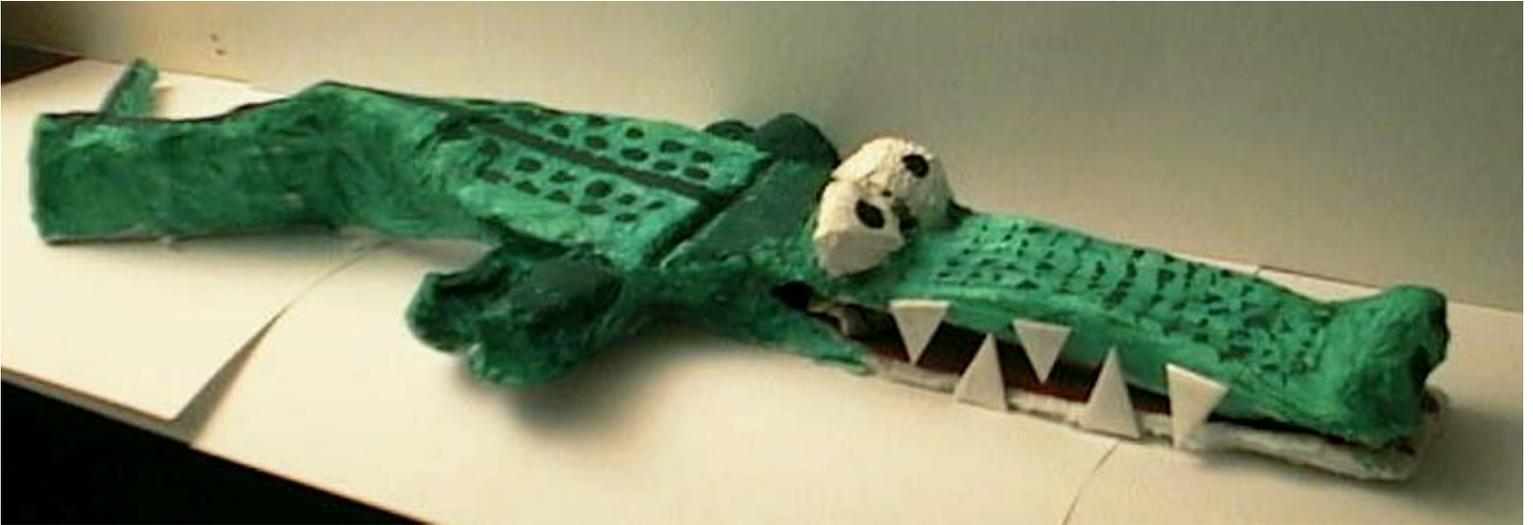


# ALLIGATOR CRAFT



To give you a feel for the size, the alligator in the picture is about two feet long (and it's mouth opens and shuts!!)

There are a couple bits of constructive criticism that I receive every so often. One is that I need crafts geared toward older kids, another is that I need something that does more to stimulate a child's creativity and the third is that I need "something different".

This alligator is the first in a series of new crafts designed to address those comments. If it goes over well, I'll design more along these lines. My 6 year old helped a little bit and both of my girls really liked the end product, but I'd say the craft should be made by Age 8+.

This page may take a minute to load (I included lots of photos in the hopes that it would make the instructions easier to understand).

## MATERIALS:

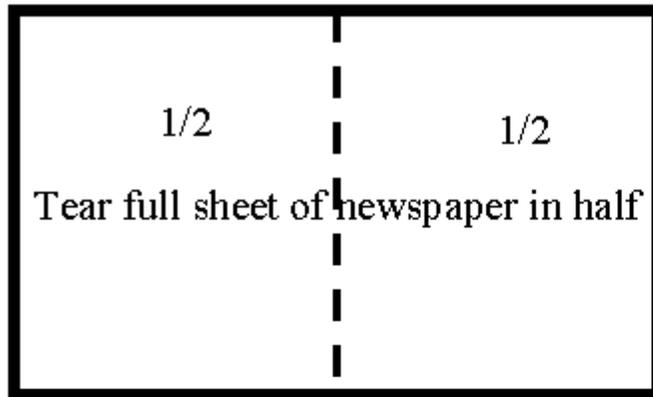
- The only "store bought" material is green paint (tempra, poster or finger paint all work well... acrylic paints work great, but don't wash out of clothes!!!) If you don't have green paint, green tissue paper or napkins will work too. My alligator took about 2 oz (100 ml) of green paint.
- paint brush
- OPTIONAL: white paint and red paint (the craft works fine without these)!
- newspaper
- ONE OF: egg carton (Styrofoam) OR cardboard (empty cereal boxes work well!)
- ONE OF: white tissue paper, white Kleenex, white paper towel OR white toilet paper
- scissors
- tape (masking or scotch tape)
- ONE OF: white glue, mod podge OR paper mache paste (1 part flour to 5 parts water... boil about 3 minutes and let cool)



**STEP 1: BUILD THE FRAME:**

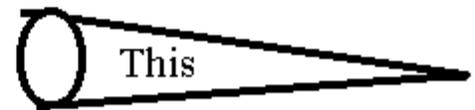
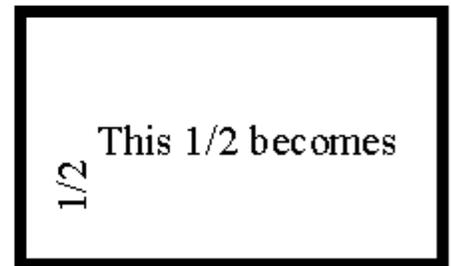
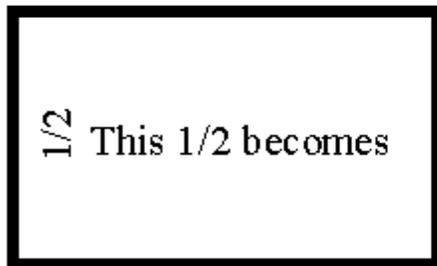
Like I said, this is the first of a more complicated crafting series so if you have any suggestions to improve the instructions, please feel free to [let me know!](#) I recommend you quickly review all the instructions before starting the project.

Take one piece of newspaper. Cut it in half along the crease.



Take one 1/2 and roll it into a long, loose sausage

Take the other 1/2 and roll it into a long cone.

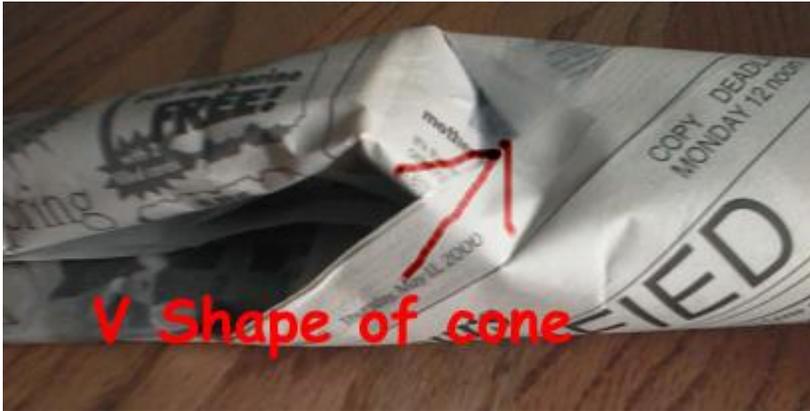


Fold the sausage in half (this will be the alligator's jaws ), but make the top half a bit longer (about 4 to 6 inches longer) than the bottom half.



Roll the longer piece to make the snout. Tape snout well!

Take a good look at your cone shape. There should be a V shape at the open end. Insert the jaws so the V side is on the top of the alligator. Tape the jaws and cone together well (top and bottom)



Now it should look like this



or here is the view from above

Alrighty! We're doing well...

Now press the alligator's back so it is flat (just below the jaws)



Fold the part just below the flattened back to the left and then fold in half again to the right (Z-shaped). Pinch/crease.



Let go so you get a zig zag tail enough, pinch/crease it harder!

if it didn't zig zag

Now the eyes... Make two newspaper balls (about 1 inch balls) and tape them really well/tightly so they don't unscrunch. Then tape them to the top of the alligator's jaws.



And last the legs (your alligator may be a bit wobbly up to this point... don't worry!). Make two more newspaper sausages long enough to stick out at least an inch on either side of the alligator. Roll nice and tightly this time so he has sturdy legs. Tape well to the bottom of the alligator.



think.

I should have put them a bit farther apart than I did, I

You're now done your frame (that's the toughest part, but it's amazing what you can do with newspaper, isn't it!?!)

## STEP 2: MAKE HIM SOLID:

Take your white tissue paper (toilet paper, Kleenex or paper towel will also work... we used toilet paper \*grin\*). The white paper (whichever kind you chose) will make him more solid and will make it easier to paint him (less paint required than if you were painting over newspaper).

Coat your alligator with mod podge, paper mache paste or white glue diluted 1/2 and 1/2 with water (we chose the white glue/water solution and painted it on with paint brushes).

Lay 2 layers of toilet paper/tissue paper ALL OVER your



alligator.

The tissue will soak onto the alligator in a minute or two. Use your paint brush and some more glue/water solution to get the toilet paper wetter when necessary and into all the crevices.



Don't forget to do the inside of the mouth!. Use scissors to clip off excess as necessary.

Let dry (likely overnight). At various stages, you'll be letting him dry (now and while painting. I always propped his jaws open with a lightly crumpled piece of newspaper whenever he was drying so his jaws didn't stick shut.



STEP 3: PAINT HIM:



Take your green paint and paint your alligator (except his eyeballs). If you have red paint, leave the inside of his mouth unpainted. If you don't have red paint, paint the inside of his mouth green.

If you don't have paint at all, you could use green tissue paper or napkins and the same paste/process as in STEP 2.

Let dry.

Turn him over and paint the bottom (his belly) if you want to. You can paint it a lighter green or a creamy color if you want... BE CREATIVE (you said you wanted to be! \*grin\*)

Let dry.

If you have white paint and/or red paint, paint the inside of the mouth red and the eyeballs white (the eyeballs are pretty white without the paint, so it isn't the end of the world to skip painting



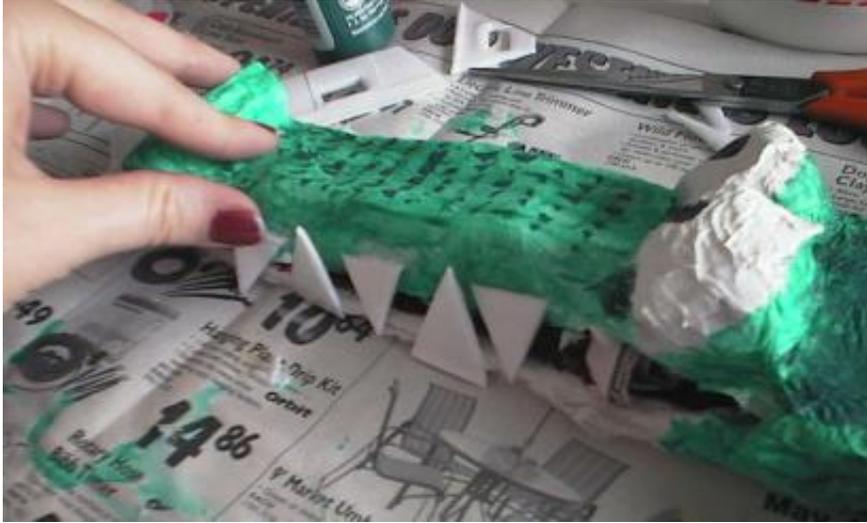
them) Tasha liked painting the mouth!

Let dry.

Take some markers (or other colors of paint) and draw on some detail: black eyeballs on the eyes, nostrils on the snout and darker green splotches on the back and top of the jaw. I also drew a line down the center from his jaws to the tip of his tail.



Take a Styrofoam egg carton and find some flat, white parts (you can substitute cardboard with white paper glued onto it!) Cut out teeth shapes



and glue them onto your alligator's jaws

Guess what? You're done!



(You can cover with a few coats of clear varnish if you want a shiny alligator you can leave outside in the garden!)