

Chinese Paper Plate Dragon



Just in time for the Chinese New Year and the year of the Dragon. Make up a few of these, grab some friends and create your own dragon train.

The fold in the paper plate allows the mouth to snap open and shut making this a fun puppet to play with. The Chinese Dragon Dance and the Chinese Lion Dance are both traditional dances that involve people dressing up in costumes to make full sized "puppets". Martial arts moves, bells and drums accompany the dances.



You will need:

- Paint
- Paper plate
- 3 egg carton cups
- Paper
- Printer
- Scissors
- Paintbrush
- Glue
- Black marker or paint

Instructions:

1. Fold your paper plate in half and crease quite firmly.

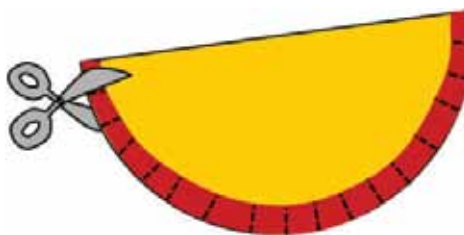
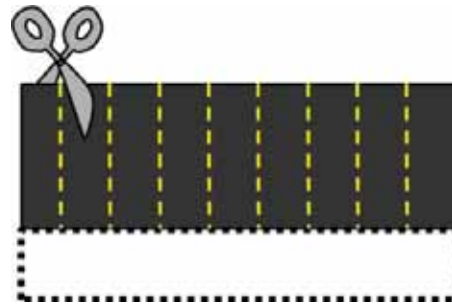
The bottom of the paper plate (the part that sits on the table) should be facing out and the top of the paper plate (the part you put food on) should be the inside of the "mouth".

2. Paint your paper plate in the desired colour(s). Acrylic paint dries fast and it's washable WHILE WET, but once it dries it's permanent.

3. Paint the three egg carton cups another colour.

4. While your paint is drying, print out the template of choice or create your own template pieces.

5. Cut a fringe in the eyelashes. This is very important as it will allow the eyelashes to "wrap around" the egg carton cups.



6. Eyelash fringe: Once the paper plate is dry, cut a fringe around the outside.

7. Paper plate fringe

8. Glue the eyeballs inside the two of the egg carton cups.

9. Glue the egg carton cup that doesn't have an eyeball, cup down, onto the front center of the plate as a nose. We just used regular school glue and it worked fine.

10. Glue the eyeball egg carton cups just behind the nose with the eyeballs facing forward.

11. Fold the tab of the eyelashes and use it to glue the eyelash fringe around each eye.

12. Fold the tab of the small row of teeth and use it to glue the teeth inside the mouth.



13. Fold the tabs of the fangs and use them to glue one fang on each side of the teeth.

14. Glue the tongue inside the mouth. We just put glue on the top edge of the tongue so it still flops around.

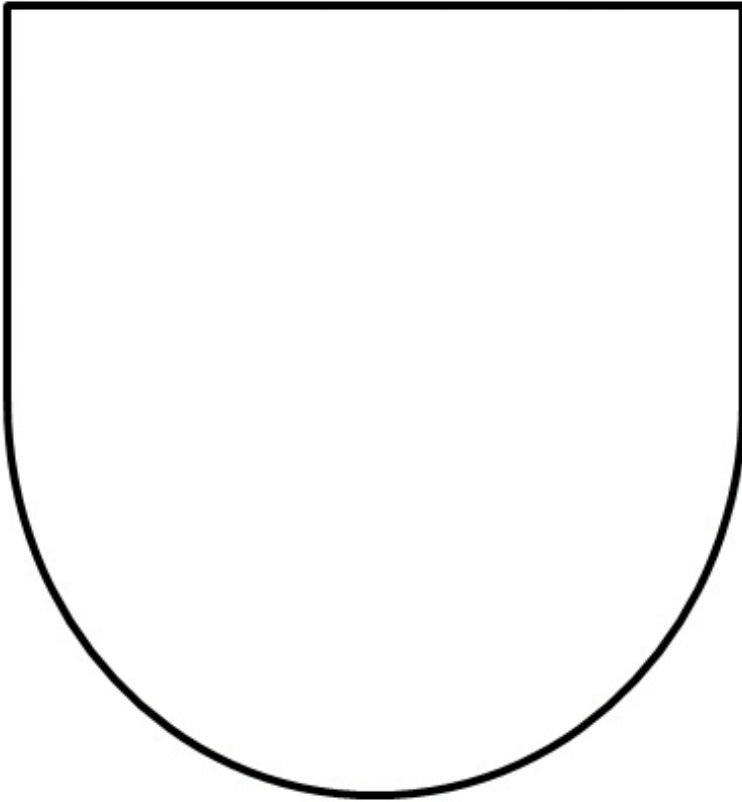
15. Draw a couple of nostrils on the nose with a black marker or black paint.

16. Tongue and teeth Set everything aside to dry really well. If working with younger children you can use this dry time as an opportunity to sneak in with a glue gun and strengthen the bonds of the egg carton cups. My daughter is 14 and not very rough with her projects so we just left it with the school glue and it didn't ever fall apart. If you're making this for some serious playtime, use a glue gun for all of the egg cartons.

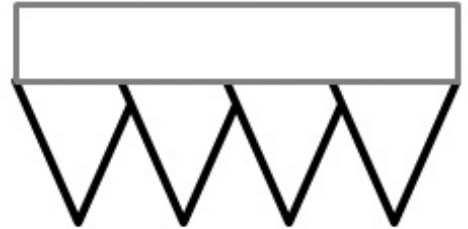
See the next page for a template for the tongue, teeth, eyes and eyelashes >>

Chinese Paper Plate Dragon Template

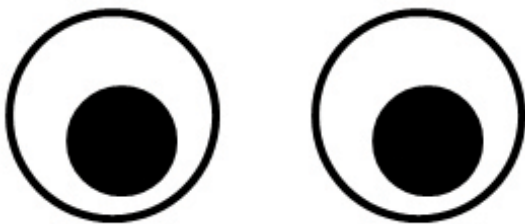
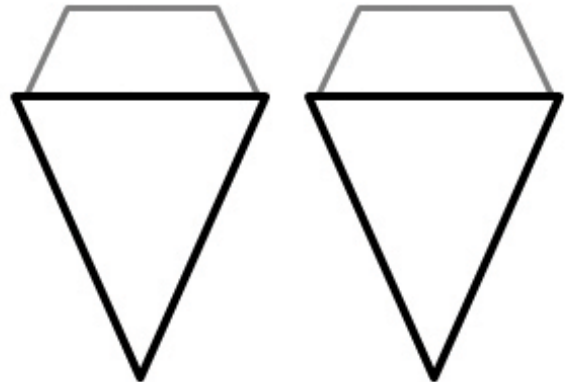
Glue tongue inside the folded plates so it sticks out a bit.



Glue small teeth to center-top of the plate.



Glue large teeth to center-top on either side of the small teeth.



Eyelashes:
Cut fringe
and glue
on the egg
carton
eyes

