

## Krafted 3-D Icons

Create large-scale 3-D designs using plain paper packing tape! **art + language arts**

An icon is defined as a person or thing regarded as a representative symbol or as worth of veneration. This could be someone or something the student admires or could be a representation of their own identity. Students design and construct an oversized letter, number, or other symbol to represent the chosen subject. Instead of wet, messy adhesive, this process uses paper packing tape to create a type of papier mâché. This tape is inexpensive, easy, and tidy to use, and the finished sculptures are hard and durable. Using drawing materials, paints, collage, or decoupage, students further characterize the subject, covering the surface with descriptive words and images.

### GRADES K-12

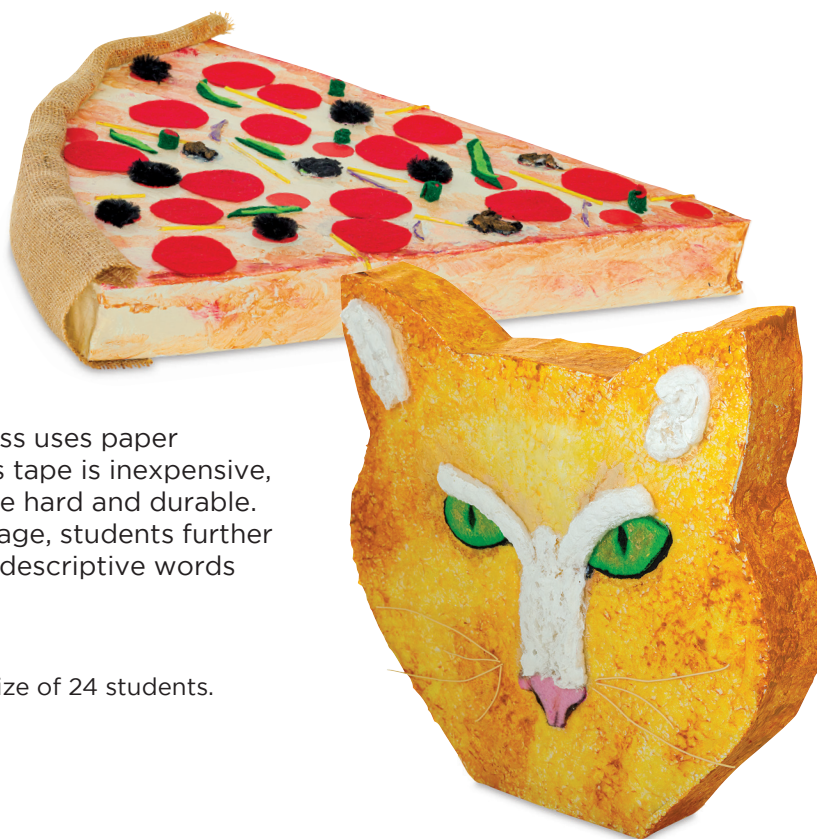
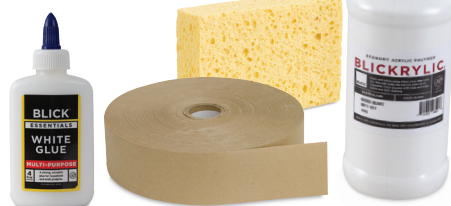
Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.

### Preparation

1. Cut chipboard in half to a 14" x 22" size.

### Process

1. Design the shape on drawing paper using a pencil. The design should be a minimum of 2 1/2" thick in all areas, but may be up to 14" x 22" in overall size. Cut the shape out and use it as a pattern to trace onto both chipboard pieces, then cut out.
2. Take one chipboard shape, right-side-up and glue paper cups onto it, staggering them up and down so the cups fit together. The more cups used, and the closer together they are, the stronger the finished piece will be. Allow glue to dry until tacky (or longer), then glue the top in place, being careful to align it with the bottom. Allow to dry completely.
3. Dampen a sponge and place it onto a plate. Cut paper tape into a variety of lengths. Dampen the adhesive on the tape and press an end on the top side. Smooth gently around and adhere it to the back side. Continue until all surfaces are completely covered with at least two layers of paper tape. Apply the tape as smoothly as possible, avoiding excessive overlapping.
4. As an option, apply two coats of acrylic gesso to make the surface white and help seal any edges. Allow the gesso to dry between coats.



### Materials (required)

**All-Purpose Chipboard**, single thick, 22" x 28" (13115-2222); one sheet per student

**Blick White Sulphite Drawing Paper**, 60 lb, 12" x 18" (10209-1007); one sheet per student

**Blick White Glue**, 4 oz (23882-1004); share one between two students

**Kraft Paper Tape**, 2" x 600 ft roll (24118-1002); share three rolls across classroom

**3M Commercial Cellulose Sponges**, (38014-1006); cut and share between 6 students

**Paper cups**, 5 oz bath size

### Optional Materials

**Blickrylic Gesso**, quart (00711-1017)

**Blickrylic Student Acrylics**, assorted colors (00711-)

**Blick Studio Brush Markers and Sets**, assorted colors (24532-)

**Blick Essentials Colored Pencil Sets**, assorted colors (22429-)

**Blick Studio Pastel Sets**, assorted colors (20016-)



## Process, continued

5. Embellish the surface with descriptive words, images and symbols that are meaningful to the student's personal identity. Some options for surface decoration include:

**Drawing:** Coating the packing tape with acrylic gesso will create a smooth, white surface for drawing with colored pencils or markers.

**Collage:** Collect photos, magazine cutouts, colorful paper, tissue and more. Apply them decoupage-style to the surface of the shape. Gesso is not needed as a primer for this technique.

**Painting:** Priming the surface with gesso first will make colors brighter and easier to apply. Use acrylic or premium-grade tempera colors to create designs.

**Raised Surface:** Working on one side of the shape at a time, use a plastic knife or craft stick to spread gel medium to about 1/16" thickness across the surface. Use paint scrapers, modeling tools and other items to create words, textures and designs in the gel. Gel will appear white when wet but will be clear when dry. After all sides of the letter are textured and dry, paint them with black acrylic paint and allow them to dry. Sponge metallic color over the black paint.



## Options

- Instead of paper packing tape, use Activa Rigid-Wrap Plaster Cloth (333507-1004) to cover the letter form. When dry, letters will be very hard and may be painted and embellished.

## National Core Arts Standards - Visual Arts

### Creating

**Anchor Standard 1:** Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

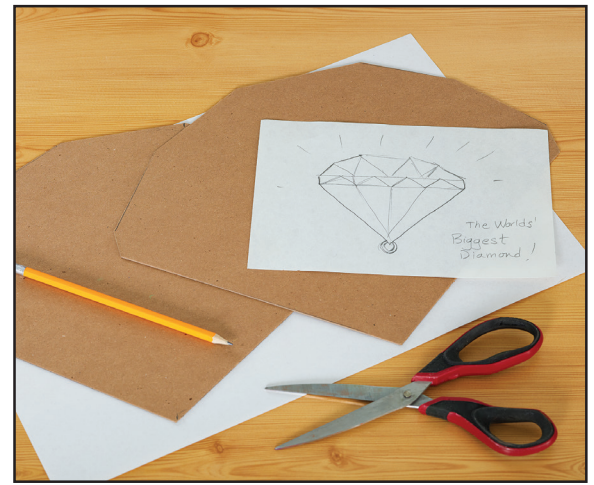
**Anchor Standard 2:** Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

### Responding

**Anchor Standard 8:** Perceive and analyze artistic work.

### Connecting

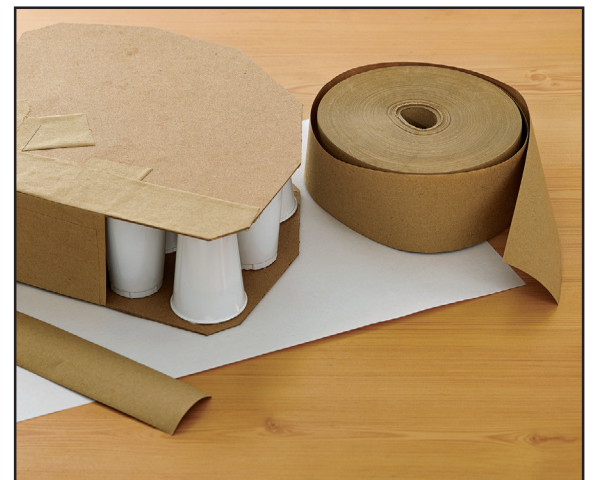
**Anchor Standard 10:** Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.



*Step 1: Cut two matching shapes from a chipboard sheet.*



*Step 2: Glue paper cups to one piece of chipboard. Glue and place the second piece on top.*



*Step 3: Cover with gummed adhesive paper tape. When dry, embellish by painting, drawing, or adding collage materials.*