



## Make a Masterpiece

### Create Your Own Découpage

See [this activity](#) on our YouTube channel.

Découpage, the art of decorating an object with layers of glue and paper, offers many opportunities for creativeness and experimentation even for the youngest of artists.

#### What you need:

- An object to découpage onto such as a jar, vase, bowl, wooden box, picture frame, etc.
- Mod Podge or diluted Elmer's Glue (Mix together three parts Elmer's Glue with one part water. Stir well.)
- Cup
- Water
- Spoon
- Foam or bristle brush
- A variety of papers such as tissue paper, wrapping paper, scrapbook paper, napkins, magazines, greeting cards
- Scissors or an X-ACTO knife to cut paper (with adult supervision or assistance!), or simply use your hands to tear
- A protective covering such as a placemat to protect your work surface



#### What you do:

1. Select your paper(s) and use scissors to cut, or your hands to tear, into small pieces.
2. Spread a thin layer of découpage medium onto your object using a foam or bristle brush.
3. Lay the small paper pieces onto your glued object and smooth the pieces with a brush and/or your fingers.
4. Repeat this process adding several layers of glue and paper onto the item to add dimension.
5. Paint a final layer of découpage glue over your entire project when done.
6. Let dry overnight.

#### Helpful Tips:

- Experiment with various textures and paper types. Different thicknesses will give you unique effects.
- When selecting an item to découpage note that the background color may show through.
- Thicker papers may require thicker layers of découpage glue between coats.
- The paper bits may stretch or bubble up initially, and if so, smooth out air bubbles with your fingers and then go over area again with a foam or bristle brush. Minor wrinkling will shrink and flatten as your project dries.
- Adjust the measurement of glue to water ratio until you find a consistency that works well for you.
- Use recycled materials such as magazines, greeting cards and images to make great cutouts for your découpage project.
- When cutting out intricate designs or special shapes, an X-ACTO knife or scissors work well. *Use caution and adult supervision as blades are very sharp!*

Find more at-home activities at <http://discoveryacton.org/discovery-home>.