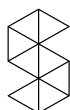
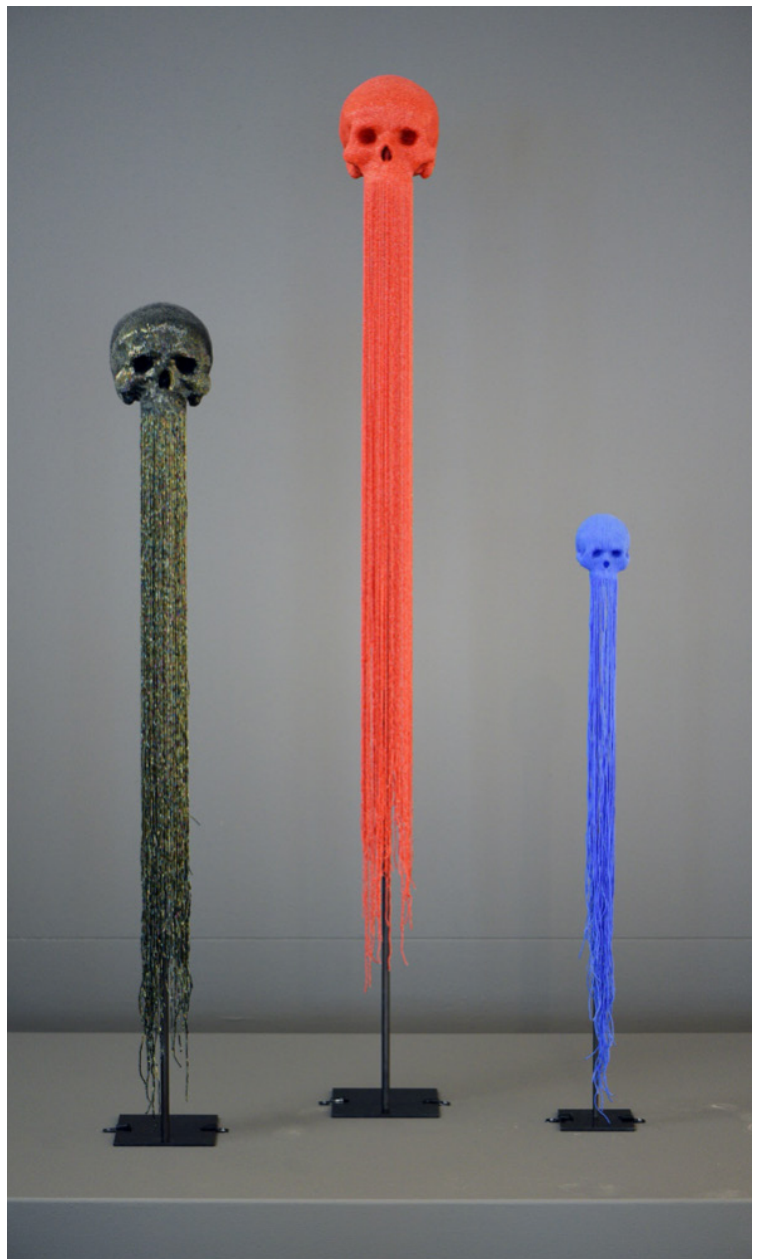


NO STRINGS: JIM SKULL AND CURIOUS CONNECTIONS

Jim Skull is an artist who only uses skulls as his inspiration... he even changed his name to match! He makes his own skulls, they are not real, and then creates amazing artwork. You can find out more about him, and watch a short film which shows him making a skull, by [clicking the image opposite...](#)



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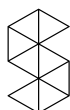
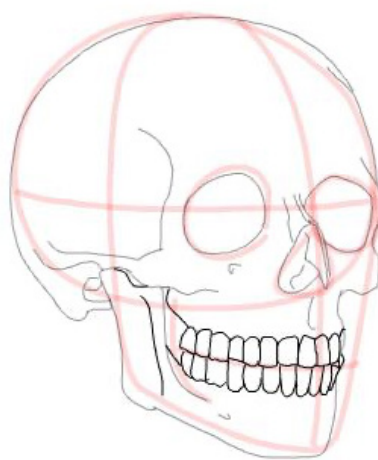
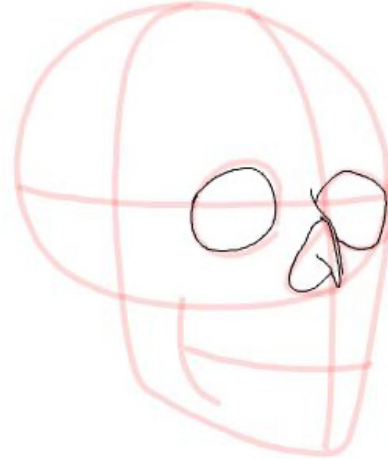
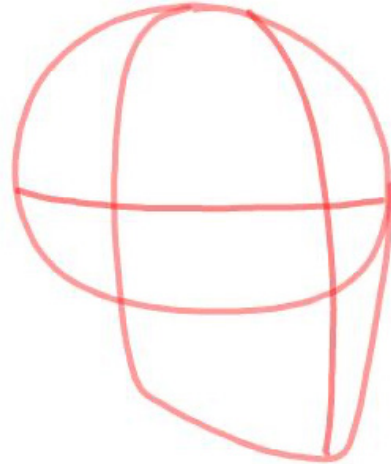
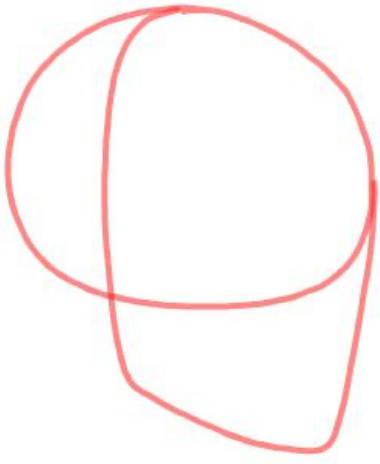


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Practice Makes Perfect

To model something in 3D like Jim does you really need to know the shapes you are working with first. Get to know the shape of a skull by following this step by step drawing guide:



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What's in a Name?

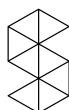
Jim changed his name because of his artwork, and it definitely makes it easy to remember. Imagine you were going to change your name, think about what gives you your best ideas or something you love.

What would your new name be?

What about the people you live with, what would their new names be?

Historically last names told other people something about what you do for a living. What does your last name mean? If you don't know you can easily look it up online.

Draw something that represents you here:



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Ssssh it's a Secret...

Here's an amusing drawing activity for you to do together... Make funny drawings by doing one part each in secret and swapping it between you, you can play with two or more people. The family version is called Consequences but it began with Surrealist artists who called it Exquisite Corpses.

Follow these simple steps:

Cut strips of paper. Every person takes a piece and at the top draw a head and a neck. Make sure nobody sees what's been drawn. You can do anything you want, humans, animals or imaginary creatures, the more unusual the better!

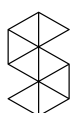
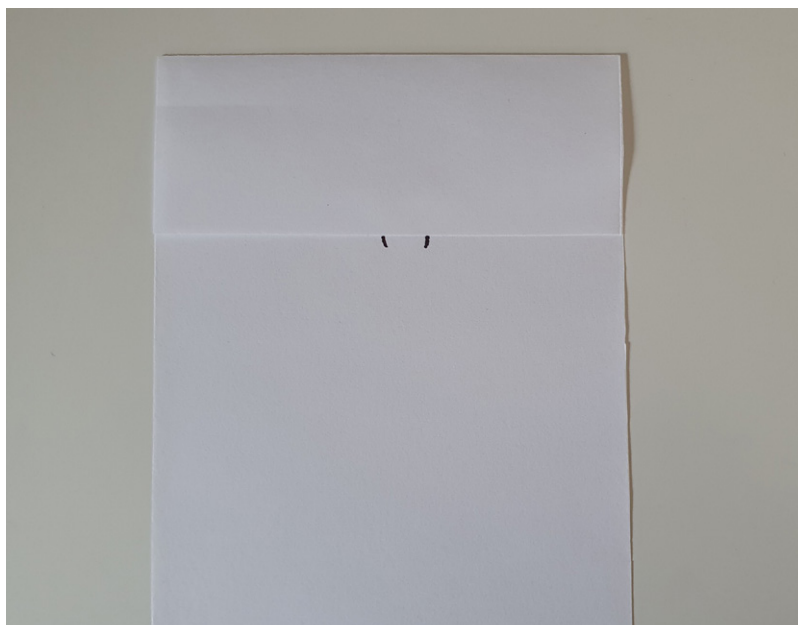
Fold the paper over to cover your drawing but leave a tiny part of the neck showing. Pass the paper round to the left.

Next person draws a body and connects it to the neck, stopping at the waist. Again, fold the paper over to leave a tiny part of the waist showing. Pass the paper round.

Next it's the legs, fold the paper and pass round

Then it's the feet.... fold it over once more and pass round one last time.

Then open up the drawings... what have you created between you? Please share your finished ones with us on social media, we'd love to see what you came up with!



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NO STRINGS: JIM SKULL AND CURIOUS CONNECTIONS

Paper Weaving

Jim's work in 'No Strings' is made by patiently threading together thousands and thousands of beads which he skilfully makes in a way to fit perfectly over the handmade skull. You'll also notice that all of these pieces have long fringes that hang down from the bottom of the jaw. You can see the detail of this in the image below.



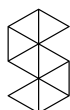
You can make your own colourful design in a similar way by weaving paper together.



You will need

- Two sheets of paper cut to be the same size – they need to be different colours. They can already be patterned, like wrapping paper or magazine pages. If you don't have anything colourful, you could make your own to use by adding colour to a blank sheet in any way you choose.
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- A ruler
- Pencil

Make sure your pieces of paper are the same size, it doesn't matter how big they are but you probably want a minimum of 20cm square.



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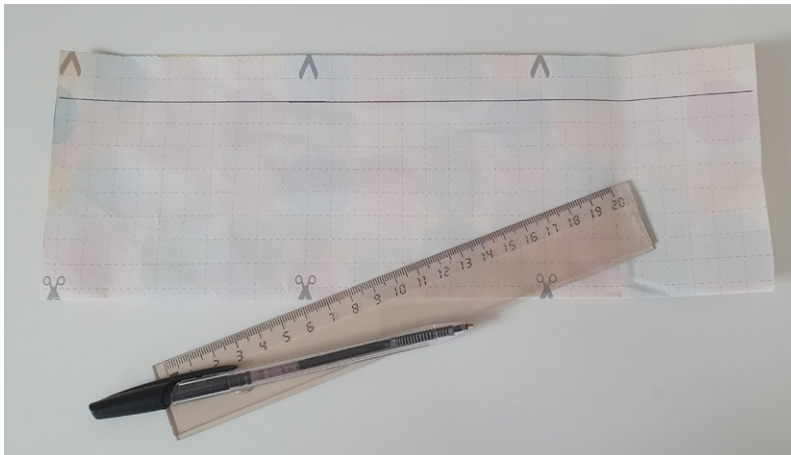


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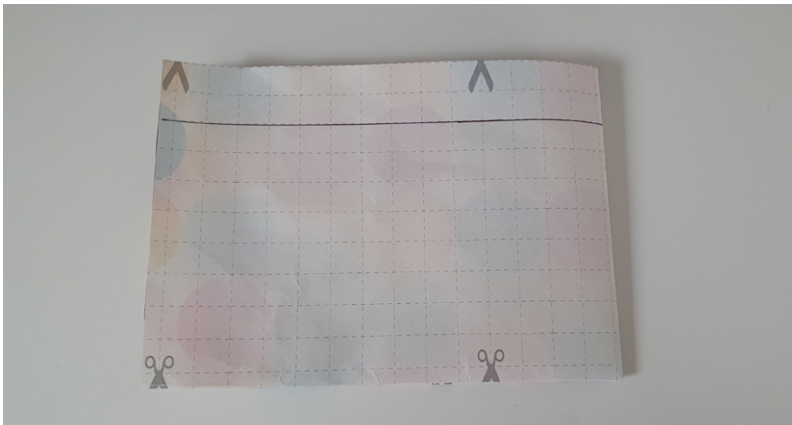
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Fold your first piece in half – if it's a rectangle, make sure your fold is lengthways. We're using recycled wrapping paper so we are keeping the pattern on the back. This will be the frame for your woven paper artwork.

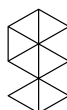
Measure 2cm down from the top and draw a line along.



Since everybody doing this activity will have different sizes of paper to work with, the best way to do this next step is to fold rather than measure. So, fold your paper in half like this, and then repeat it again until you get a width that is about 2cm.



Then unfold it.



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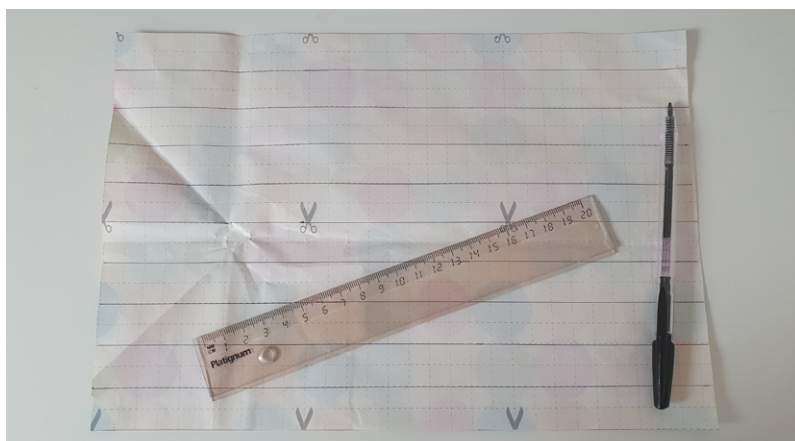
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These fold lines will be where you cut. Use a ruler and draw over them to make it easier to see. Make sure your paper has the line going across at the top, and then cut from the folded part at the bottom up to meet the line that you drew. It's important not to cut beyond this line.



Measure the width of the strip between cut lines, by chance ours were almost exactly 2cm. Put this sheet to one side and take your second piece of paper. This will be the strips that are woven into the first piece.

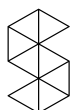
The strips need to be the same width as the ones you cut on your first piece of paper – mark out this measurement lengthways and draw lines across.



Cut all the way across to make separate strips. If your piece is square you can use the same folding technique as before and use those fold lines to cut your strips to size.



Take your first piece of paper, open it out and place it colourful side up. This is your weaving frame. Now take one of the long strips and put it under the first strip on the frame then over the second - keep going under then over to the end.



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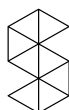
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Push the strip up to fit snugly at the top. Make sure it is level all the way along and that there isn't a gap. Stick down both ends. Take a second strip and go over then under – this is the opposite from your first one. Push it up to meet the first one and stick down the ends.



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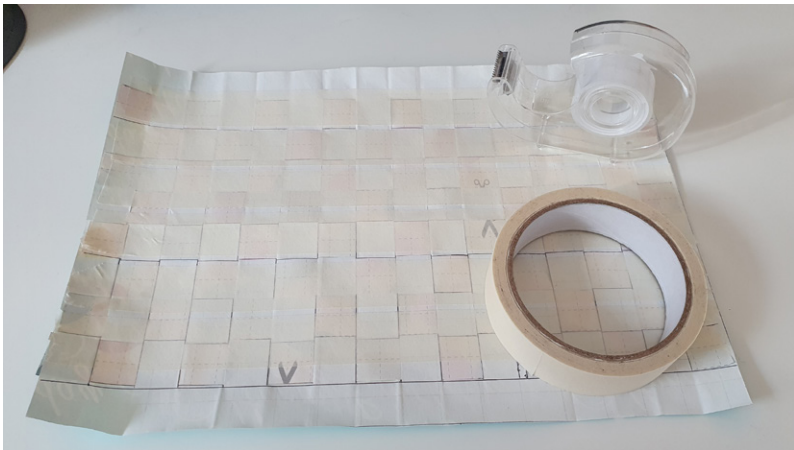
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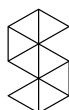


Repeat this with the strips, (you'll have a couple left over) then you have a finished woven paper artwork!



Additional steps:

To make the skull shape: If you want to, you can cut your weaving into the shape of a skull. Turn it over and put rows of tape all the way across the area. If you don't have tape, glue another piece of paper to the back – you will need to glue the entire surface to make sure the woven strips stay in place. Leave it to dry before doing the next steps.



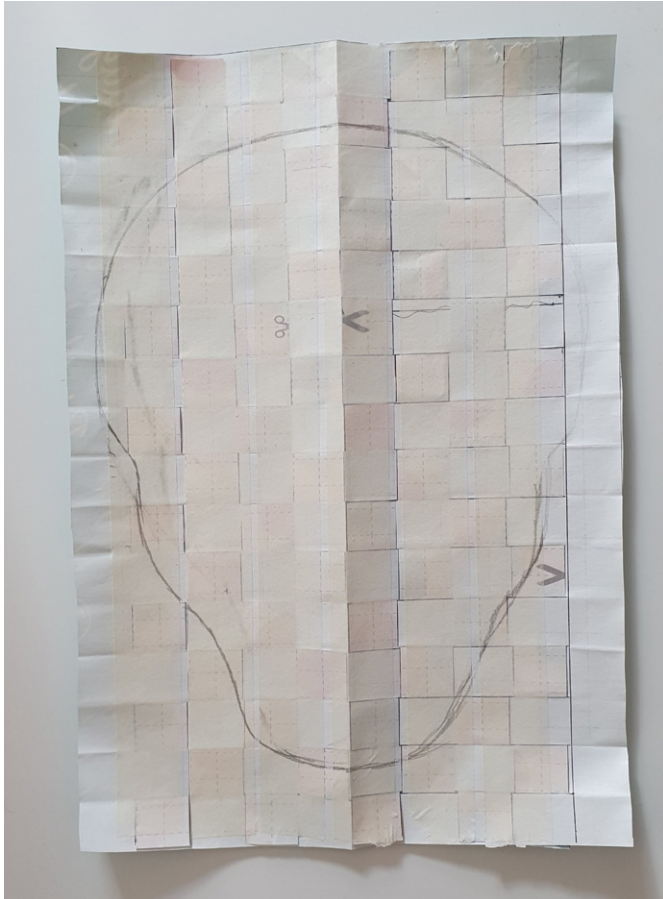
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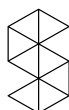


Fold the page in half so you have a line for the centre. Draw of the outline of a skull, as large as you can get it. You only really need to do one half but it's good practice to draw both so you know the proportions are correct.

Fold the paper in half and cut along the line – doing it this way will give you a symmetrical skull!



Add in some contrasting coloured eyes and nose to complete your Jim Skull inspired paper weaving!



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