

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

Roberta Mason creates glass sculptures which reflect on the strange beauty of the undersea world whilst bringing attention to the affect human activities and climate change are having on our oceans and their residents.

Her creations aim to introduce these weird and wonderful creatures to us and show how our everyday choices affect them.



GET CREATING!

A great way to learn about new and sometimes strange creatures can come from trying to re-create them. Bubble coral are animals that are both hard and soft. They have a hard skeleton like other, more familiar corals, but they also have soft pillow or bubble-like parts that have algae inside. These 'bubbles' make a home for the algae who use photosynthesis to make food for themselves and the coral, in a symbiotic relationship.

In making a bubble coral sculpture we will create a basic structure/skeleton and we will make and add the 'bubbles' that provide the home for the algae. Your sculpture will be about 26 cm long x 20 cm wide and 20 cm tall.

YOU WILL NEED:

- Paper Straws or paper (rolled into straws)
- Blue tack or clay
- Aluminium foil
- String
- Cotton balls or scrunched up paper
- Double-sided tape or glue dots
- Felt tip pens
- Scissors



STEP BY STEP



1. Create the skeleton

This is made using 3 straw arches (yellow) and 2 circles; a larger straw circle (pink) to go around the outside and a smaller yellow one which is woven into the yellow arches above the link circle.



Each arch is made using two straws pushed together.

Gently pinch one end so it slides into the other straw.



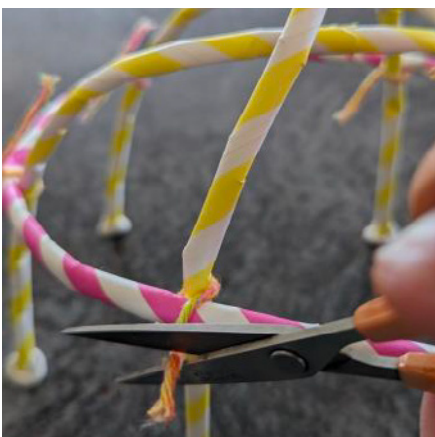
Shape the arches by gently denting them on the inside of the curve.

Add white or blue tack to secure the feet.



Secure each joint with string to hold the structure together.

The string can be coloured to match the skeleton using the marker pens.



Trim the excess with scissors.

The skeleton should now have 3 arches and 2 loops ready for the bubbles.





2. Make the 'Bubbles'

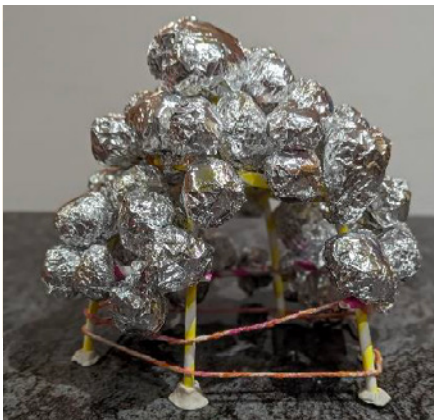
There are a lot to make so get your friends to help out!



Use cotton balls or crunched up paper to make about 40 'bubbles' of various sizes and shapes.

When the foil is twisted around the balls create a tail as an attachment point.

The 'bubbles' can be coloured with marker pens.



3. Assemble the sculpture

This will take a little time and patience.

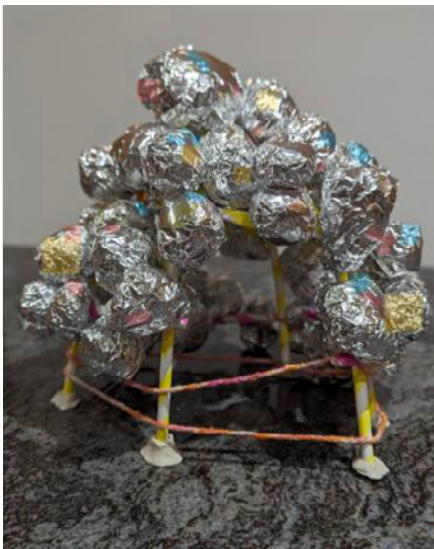


Have
some
Fun!

Start by attaching 'Bubbles' to the skeleton at the join points. Use the glue dots to help stick them in place.

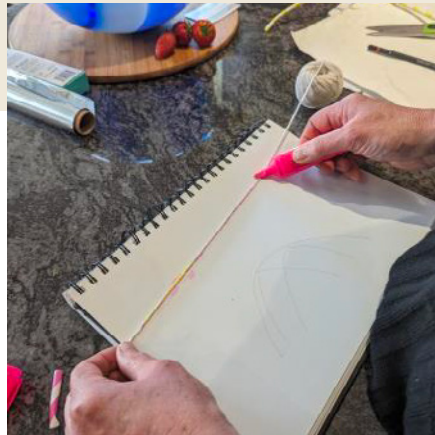
Vary the sizes used to create a sense of depth.

As more and more 'bubbles' are attached you can fill gaps by attaching the 'bubbles' to each other with the glue dots.



4. Finishing Touches

When you are happy with the shape and number of 'bubbles' you can add the finishing touches to the sculpture.



Colour enough string with your maker pens to go around the base at least two times.

The coloured string around the base is to show that the coral's base/skeleton is dissolving because of climate change.

The 'bubbles' can be coloured with marker pens or left with the shiny, mirror like finish of the foil.

When you are happy, gently cut away the central straw (pink) to create a more open front.

