Torn Paper Animals

Go wild tearing up tissue paper to create your favorite animal!

Haudenosaunee (ho-DEE-no-Sho-nee) translates to The People of the Longhouse and refers to the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy – Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Tuscarora and Mohawk. This cradleboard (Ga-on-seh) is on view in the Haudenosaunee gallery, and represents an important accessory that parents use to carry their babies. Cradleboards are special. They are painted and carved with images of the animals and plants that live in the environment. Typically, the designs are inspired by the environments in which the creators live. Haudenosaunee people live in the Eastern Woodland region. What animals live near you?

This Mohawk cradleboard in The Rockwell collection is beautifully decorated with birds, flowers, leaves and patterns of shapes. Notice how the tiny circles are repeated to make lines of circles. Notice the braided twist towards the top. This is the arc of the cradleboard, a protective bow that goes over the baby’s head. It’s important to keep babies safe and close to us. Since cradleboards would be used daily to carry a very special person in our lives, a lot of time would go into creating and decorating them.
Materials:

- 2 sheets of paper with a printed animal
- 1 sheet of blank white paper (to draw your own animal)
- Pencil
- Squares of colored tissue paper
- Glue stick

Instructions:

1) Start with a piece of paper that has an outline of an animal.

2) Tear bits of colored paper into small pieces, crumple and glue onto your paper using a glue stick. Be creative with your color choices! Your animal does not have to be realistic. It can be imaginary and include the colors of the rainbow.
3) Think about how the tissue paper will create texture and dimension. Vary the size that you crumple your paper. Try large pieces for large areas and small pieces for details.

4) Use the animal facts and pictures to learn about different animals that live across the United States as inspiration for your creation. You can also draw inspiration from the artwork in the galleries.

5) Add a background with the habitat or the environment in which your animal lives. Consider adding trees, hills, rocks, mountains or water.

6) Make another one. Try drawing your own animal on a blank sheet of paper.

7) Have fun going wild tearing up paper!
**Bison:** The American bison, also known as the American buffalo, once roamed the grasslands of North America in massive herds. They are now nearly extinct due to a combination of commercial hunting and slaughter in the 19th century and disease. Bison are known for their shaggy fur and beastly appearances.

**Black Bear:** The black bear is a medium-sized bear native to North America. Black bears are omnivores (plant and meat eaters) with their diets varying greatly depending on season and location. They typically live in largely forested areas and are excellent tree climbers but are also found in mountains and swamps. Despite their name, black bears can be blue-gray or blue-black, brown, cinnamon, or even (very rarely) white.

**Gray Wolf:** The gray wolf is the largest member of the dog family, with males averaging 95–99 pounds and females 79–85 pounds. They are known for communicating with a spine-tingling howl. Their winter fur is long and bushy, and predominantly a mottled gray in color, although white, red, or brown to black also occur.

**Great Horned Owl:** With its long, earlike tufts, intimidating yellow-eyed stare, and deep hooting voice, the Great Horned Owl is the quintessential owl of storybooks. They are nocturnal (creatures of the night), and are known as fierce predators.

**Horse:** The arrival of the horse in the Americas revolutionized the culture of the Native Americans of the Great Plains. The horse increased mobility of humans. Horses can cover a lot of ground in a very short period of time, which allowed Native people to become nomadic (easily move from place to place). Their culture changed in many ways, including transportation, trade, hunting and warfare.
Moose: Moose are the largest of all the deer species. Males are immediately recognizable by their huge antlers, which can spread 6 feet from end to end. Their diet consists of both terrestrial (land) and aquatic (water) vegetation, preferring to browse higher grasses and shrubs because lowering their heads to ground level can be difficult.

Red Fox: Red foxes live around the world in many diverse habitats including forests, grasslands, mountains and deserts. They are solitary hunters who feed on rodents, rabbits, birds and other small game. The red fox's resourcefulness has earned it a legendary reputation for intelligence and cunning.

Red-tailed Hawk: The red-tailed hawks are known for their brick-colored tails and are North America’s most common hawk. These birds of prey are keen-eyed and efficient hunters. They prefer open areas, such as fields or deserts, with high perching places nearby from which they can watch for prey. Red-tailed hawks are monogamous and may mate for life.

Turtle: Turtles are reptiles with a hard shell that protects them like a shield. The upper shell is called a ‘carapace’ and the lower shell is called a ‘plastron’. They have existed for around 220 million years, making them one of the oldest reptile species on Earth. Turtles breathe air and do not lay eggs underwater, although many species live in or around water.

White-tailed Deer: There are more than 40 deer species! The white-tailed deer is the most common deer species in North American, with hooves and white colored fur under their tails. Males (bucks) can weigh up to 400 pounds and females (does) are a little smaller. They eat wild plants and can regrow new antlers each