

RISE JOIN THE SWARM: Be part of the biggest gathering of Liberty Caps since Peterloo



The *Cap of Liberty* was a powerful image of freedom, liberty and democracy to the crowds who gathered at St Peter's Field on the 16th of August 1819. Many were attacked and injured defending them.

We want to revive this ancient, world-wide symbol, and 200 years after the massacre, fill the site with a giant swarm of them to help mark the anniversary. Imagine how amazed the original campaigners would have been to see such a sight. You can help make it happen...

We're encouraging people and groups all around the region to get creative and make their own version, be they sculpted, knitted or sewn! See our 'Blue Peter-loo' basic guide below to get started.

All queries welcome to
contact@peterloomassacre.org

Bring them to the August Peterloo commemoration events and proudly raise them together in a toast to liberty, democracy, and the brave reformers of 1819.



RISE JOIN THE SWARM: BUILD YOUR OWN PETERLOO CAP OF LIBERTY



A Blue Peter-loo guide!

Any Qs? contact@peterloomassacre.org

A very simple method is to make a papier-mâché shell around the 'pointed' end of a balloon! The balloon can be of any size you want...

TOP TIPS-

Use slightly thicker paper, eg office printing paper, wallpaper and so on. This will produce a much quicker, stronger result. (Newspaper is a actually really bad idea, as it rips when soggy.)

Use slightly watered-down PVA wood glue, rather than wallpaper paste. Combined with the above, it'll make a shell that feels like thick cardboard... plus it dries much quicker.

IMPORTANT- wrap the balloon in a thin plastic bag, using a bit of sticky tape to get it to sit down fairly flat. (The paper will do the rest.) The PVA glue will make the balloon POP if you don't!

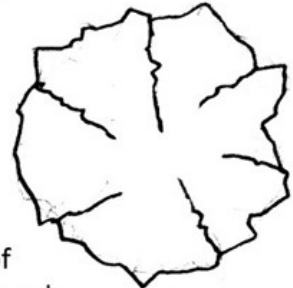


About three layers of paper should be enough for a smaller balloon, but of course use your own judgement once the layers have dried, to see if more are needed.

A useful trick is to add a bit of water-based coloured paint to the glue, for every other layer of paper. That way you can keep count of them, and you can then easily see if you've fully covered the previous one all over.

Long strips of paper criss-crossing each other is easiest and strongest for the more flat areas. Get them good and soaked in glue and they'll stretch, and sit down flat, following the curve of the balloon.

For the more pointed end of the balloon, a good trick is to make several deep tears along the edge of a slightly rounded piece of paper. When you then brush that down, it will mould itself to the curve.



When the papier-mâché feels like it's getting quite dry, POP the balloon, peel the plastic off from the inside, and let the paper dry fully. You should end up with a quite sturdy shell. Draw a line where the bottom of the cap will be, then cut the excess papier-mâché away.

You can always re-inforce the cut edge with a strip of cardboard, or with a ring of bendable wire, eg an old coat hanger. If you tape it roughly in place, you can then fold and glue strips of papier-mâché all along the edge to really secure it.



You'll then need to cover over the small hole where the mouth of the balloon was with some extra layers. Since this is where the Cap of Liberty will be attached to its pole, add LOTS of them to make it really tough!

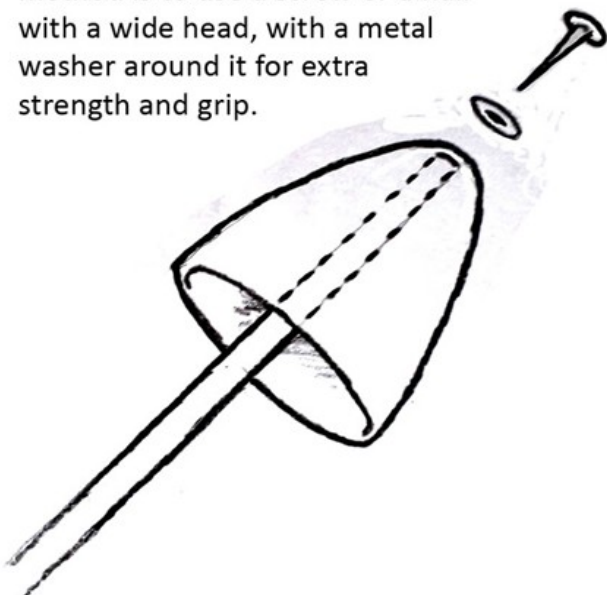
Afterwards, you can re-inforce that area by glueing a small disc of thick, solid cardboard (not corrugated cardboard) to the spot, and then covering that in a few more layers of paper, just to be sure.

Your Cap of Liberty is now ready to decorate in the shade of red of your choice!

If you add a little PVA glue to water based paint, the paint will bond with the paper really well.

The ones at Peterloo usually had gold lettering saying 'LIBERTY', but as you can see in the sketch we've made, there are a lot of other suitable words to choose from. You can paint them on, or cut them from gold foil (recycled from chocolate?) and glue them down with PVA. You could even cut the letters out of the shell!

You can then attach your Cap of Liberty to a pole. A broom handle works great, as does a bamboo cane. (If you cut the bamboo near a knuckle, the wood is solid there.) The easiest method is to use a screw or a nail with a wide head, with a metal washer around it for extra strength and grip.



Don't be afraid to get really creative with the decorations! (Though lots of red is good!)



THIS WAS JUST ONE SIMPLE, EASY METHOD.

We're looking forward to seeing lots of creative alternatives... giant ones, knitted ones, cloth ones, tiny ones made from nail varnished eggshells, or ones made from the top ends of fizzy drink bottles... anything that gives a rough 'half-egg' shape will do!

OVER TO YOU!