This artwork was made over 1,400 years ago! It’s amazing the piece survived. The Mayan people in Guatemala created this vessel using terracotta, the same clay material many flowerpots are made of and a material that is easily broken. Many smaller pieces of terracotta called appliqués are attached to this urn. Those pieces can easily break off.

Imagine you are in charge of moving this piece to another museum. How would you hold it? What would you do to protect it from breaking?

Cardboard is the perfect material to practice using this appliqué technique. Use layers of cardboard to create height and depth as you create a face like the one on this vessel. How many layers do you need to make a nose?
Appliqued Ceramic Urn, Mayan, 300–600, Terracotta, Anonymous Gift, 78.644