

ALEBRIJES

PEDRO'S STORY: Many years ago, there was a Mexican artist named Pedro Linares who became very ill. While he slept during his sickness, he dreamt of strange creatures like a donkey with the wings of a butterfly, a rooster with an eagle's head, and other strange animal combinations. He called these animal combinations "alebrijes" because they were scary like nightmares. Pedro eventually recovered from his illness. When he was well again, he created artwork that combined features from different animals, just like the creatures he saw in his dreams.

YOUR STORY: Try making strange creatures by combining features from different animals. What animals do you wish to combine? Choose from the drawings on this page, or use any animals you can think of.

Draw your animal on the back of this sheet. Use your imagination as you create your own colorful alebrije. Don't forget to give it a name and explain how your animal is unique. Describe your animal to your family and talk about the changes you made.

Below is an example of a giraphant, a combination of a giraffe and elephant.

The giraphant's trunk is useful for reaching things on the ground and high in the air. He doesn't strain his neck when he bends to reach items on the ground. Its giraffe body makes it fast so it can run from predators. Its big ears allows it to hear predators coming from far away. It's great to have a giraphant in the neighborhood. It can help you rescue kittens out of trees or wash the house. But it's almost impossible to find a car big enough to take a giraphant to the vet.

