

# SOCK PUPPETS

Puppetry is an ancient art form. For thousands of years, people of all cultures have created amazing puppets for storytelling, education, and entertainment. You can make your own sock puppets by following these instructions.

**Instructional videos available at [lanearts.org/online-learning](https://www.lanearts.org/online-learning)**

## SET UP YOUR MATERIALS

- Find an placemat, or make one out of paper or cardboard.
- Find a sock that nobody wears. Socks you have outgrown work great!
- Find some art supplies, such as: scissors, markers, cardboard, craft foam, felt, fabric, paper, pom-poms, yarn, feathers, google eyes, or anything fun.
- Find some glue. (craft glue works best, white glue is good too. If an adult is helping, hot glue can speed up drying times. Glue sticks don't work.

A note on using glue: it's important to use small amounts of glue. A ladybug sized spot will be enough for a small part such as eyes, teeth, or spikes. 3 ladybug sized spots will be enough for a larger part, such as wings, arms, or a tail.

## WHAT KIND OF PUPPET WILL YOU MAKE?

You can make anything you want. It could be a dragon, a mermaid, a robot, a fairy, a unicorn, an animal, or anything you like. Take a moment to imagine! Then, decide what kind of puppet you want to create and follow along.

## MAKE A SOCK-O-TACO

To get started, make a sock-o-taco! The sock-o-taco will help you color and glue items onto your sock without colors or glue bleeding through to the other side. If glue bleeds through, your puppet may get glued shut! To create your own sock-o-taco to avoid these issues:

- Cut a piece of cardboard about the same size and shape as your sock.
- Fold it like a taco so you can put it into the sock. Slide it into the sock.

## COLOR YOUR PUPPET

What colors would you like your puppet to have? Take a moment to imagine how you'd like your puppet to look and decide on what colors you'll use. To add a mouth to your puppet, you can draw a big red oval near the toe of the sock on one side. Then, use your markers to color your puppet's body. You can draw scales, fur, stripes, or spots. You can even cover it in rainbows!

## ADD EYES

Your puppet needs eyes now! Your puppet's eyes go on the opposite side of the sock from the mouth, near the toe. There are endless possibilities for adding eyes. You can:

- Draw eyes on your puppet with markers
- Make eyes out of foam, felt, paper, or tape
- Glue on google eyes
- Make eyes out of buttons, ping pong balls, pom-poms, or small recycled plastic lids.

Add your eyes however you'd like. If you used glue, let the glue dry before moving to the next step.

## ADD BODY PARTS

What kind of body parts does your imagined creature have? Does it have eyes, arms, legs, wings, a tail, hair, spikes? What supplies do you have that will work the best for those body parts? Craft foam, fabric, cardboard, or paper work great for cutting out puppet parts.



To make your puppet's body parts with these types of materials, follow these instructions:

- Draw the outline of your puppet's parts on the materials with a marker
- Use scissors to cut out the parts
- Decide where the parts should go on your puppet
- Glue them in place
- Let the glue dry

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## ADD DETAILS TO YOUR PUPPET'S MOUTH

Do you want your creature to have teeth or a tongue? What color should they be? What shape? Are they round teeth or sharp teeth? You can make teeth and a tongue how we made body parts in the section above, by tracing the outline of the shapes, cutting them out, and then gluing them on to your puppet. You can glue your puppet's teeth around the edges of its mouth and the tongue near the middle of its mouth. Then, wait for the glue to dry.

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## MEET YOUR PUPPET!

Now that you've added all the details to your puppet, it's time to meet them!

- Give your awesome puppet a name
- What does your puppet's voice sound like?
- How does your puppet move?
- Does your puppet have any magical powers?
- What does your puppet like to eat?
- What does your puppet like to do for fun?

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## PLAY WITH YOUR PUPPET

Now that you've met your amazing puppet and learned more about them, it's time to play!

- Use your puppet to talk with someone near you
- Have your puppet ask them questions
- Have your puppet tell a story or sing a song.
- Have your puppet teach someone something you know!

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## MAKE A PUPPET THEATRE

Now, we can prepare to put on a puppet show with our puppet. First, we'll need to set up a puppet theatre to perform in. This can be done in one of three ways:

1. Drape a blanket or sheet over a chair or couch. Hide behind the chair or couch to show your puppet without being seen.
2. Tape a stick across a doorway. Hang a towel or piece of fabric over the stick. Hide behind the fabric on the opposite side of the doorway from your audience to put on your puppet show.
3. Open one flap on the bottom of a cardboard box. Decorate the box and use it as your puppet theatre by propping it upright. When you're not performing, you can keep your puppet in the same box.

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## PERFORM!

Now that your puppet and your theatre are ready, you and your puppet can perform! Perform whatever type of show you'd like! You can invite people to watch and let them ask your puppet questions. It's fun to make up answers for your puppet. You can make more puppets now that you know how and keep putting on shows. Puppets also make great gifts! Keep imagining, creating, and having fun with puppets!

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