

PAPER BAG PUPPETS Recycle a Paper into a "Handy" Toy

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN: paper sculpture

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

lunch-bag size paper bags; scraps of colored paper; paste or glue; scissors. Optional: beads; ribbon; feathers; junk jewelry.

"TIPS": Imagination is the keyword! Puppets can be anything: people, animals, or made-up creatures. In working with glue or paste and paper, always fasten the smaller paper to the larger one. Put a dab of glue on the back of the little piece. Spread it carefully toward the edges. Wipe your sticky fingers on a tissue or sponge. Then fasten the little piece onto the larger one. Less Mess!



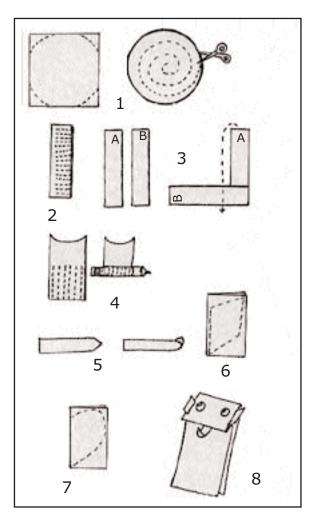
Rachel Age 8

Getting Started: Once you know some paper sculpture tricks, you can make a whole collection of bag puppets and put on a play. Here are some useful tricks.

1. Cut the corners off a small square of paper to make a circle. Cut into the circle at a slant and continue around and around like a snail shell until you are at the center. What did you make? A spiral!

2. Fold a narrow piece of paper lengthwise. Pinch the fold with one hand and cut little snips close together along the open edge. Make a feather, a mustache or an eyebrow.





3. Overlap the ends of two 15 cm.(1/2 inch)wide strips of paper as in the picture. Fasten them with a tiny bit of paste or glue. Snuggly fold A over B and then B over A again and again until the lengths are used up. Put a little glue between the last two folds. You will have a pop-up spring to which you can glue other cut-out shapes.

4. Make cuts close together to fringe one side of a shape of paper. Roll each strip of the fringe around a pencil or crayon to curl it for a beard or hair.

5. Make a long tongue and curl it up too.

6. If you fold a paper in half and cut a shape, like ears or horns, you can make two shapes at the same time.

7. To cut a heart shape, fold the paper in the middle. Hold the fold with one hand and

start your scissors at the bottom. Cut from the fold straight over to the middle of the open side. Then cut off the top corners in a big rainbow curve. (If you don't hold onto the fold, you could break your heart!)

8. Now that you know some paper sculpture tricks, make some shapes to paste onto your paper bag. Create a hand puppet you can play with. Start by pasting the tongue 'way back in the fold. Then add other features, the funnier, the better. Put your hand up onto the bag to open and close the fold "mouth."

CLEAN UP: Be sure to put the top back on the glue or paste. Pick up all your scraps. Save the bigger pieces for another project.

TALK ABOUT IT: What new paper tricks did you learn? Did you invent some of your own? How can you use paper sculpture to make other toys?

CONNECTIONS: You can act out a story if you make several puppet characters. (Ask a friend or two to help.) Or you can have your puppet give a message to people to help save the environment or clean up their mess or remember something important.