

EXTRA CRAFTY

Paper Puppet People



YOU WILL NEED:

Paper, Something to draw with, Glue or tape (tape is easier, but glue will work if you have patience), 3 straws or sticks, Scissors

Step One:

- Draw hands or mittens on cardstock. Cut out two.
- Draw an oval on cardstock for the head. Cut out one.
- Draw a trapezoid on cardstock for the body. Cut out one.



Step Two:

- Decorate your puppet. Add strips of paper or string for hair, draw a face, and design the clothes!



Step Three:

- Tape the head to the top of one straw.
- Tape a hand to the top of each of the other two straws.



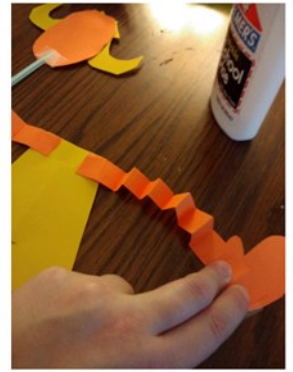
Step Four:

- Fold the body in half and cut two ½” parallel slits from the folded edge at least 2” apart (varies on puppet size).
- Slide the head straw through the slits on the body. Move straw up and down to make your puppet nod. Swivel straw to make your puppet shake its head.



Step Five:

- Cut two long strips of the leftover scrap cardstock and fold back and forth in a zigzag pattern.
- Tape one end of each strip to each hand.
- Tape the other end of each zigzag to the either shoulder of the trapezoid to finish the arms.
- Moving the straw with the hand on it can make your puppet wave or gesture!



Step Six:

- Don't forget to name your character and put on a show!

WHAT SIZE IS YOUR CHARACTER?

Is your character Tom Thumb or Thumbelina size and you are the regular size humans? Or is your character like Jack and you are the Giant? What will happen?



NOTE:

If YOU feel like being Jack instead of the giant, or playing tiny Thumbelina with the enormous humans, this same how-to works for very large puppets (giants!), but you may need three people to make it move smoothly like a person (one for the body/head, two for the arms). Cut the hands and head shapes out of foam board or cardboard and make them big! Use a long sleeve shirt for the body (with a piece of cardboard inside to keep it stiff) and tape the hands to the ends of the sleeves. Use wrapping paper tubes or broomsticks instead of straws for the support sticks.

If you want it even BIGGER, use a tablecloth or sheet folded into a triangle for the body. You won't be able to slide the head through the body, but a good rubber band or loop of string should hold the body to the stick fairly well. You can also use the triangle corners of the sheet for arms with this kind of giant puppet. Attach the corners with another rubber band or loop of string to the stick holding the giant's hands.