



CREATE YOUR OWN PUPPET SHOW

ART 4: Making Puppets that move

Articulated puppets are puppets with moving parts, usually arms or legs. They can often be moved using sticks. They can be used in different ways, as full coloured puppets or as shadow puppets which are put behind a sheet of thin paper or fabric, with a light behind so that they cast a shadow on the sheet when you darken the room.

To make an articulated puppet you will need:

- Stiff card – this can be a cereal box
- Tape – masking tape is easiest but sellotape is fine.
- Thin sticks (bamboo barbecue skewers are cheap and easy to get hold of, or green garden canes), or you can use stiff wire such as old coat hangers if you have someone who can cut them. If you have none of these you can make strips of the card.
- Split pin paper fasteners if you can get them (they are the little brass pins with 2 legs that bend back) If you can't get them you can use other things such as- 2 beads tied together with string or elastic, 2 buttons fastened together, pipe cleaners or gardening wire that can be bent at the ends.
- Something to make holes in the card.

To make a simple articulated puppet:

1. Draw your figure on the card BUT DON'T DRAW one of the arms or legs, depending on which you want to move.
2. Draw the part you want to move next to it BUT make the top of it longer than usual.
3. Cut the 2 pieces out.
4. Punch a hole in the top of the moving arm or leg.
5. Punch a hole at the shoulder or hip of the main figure. Join them together using a paper fastener, beads on a string, or wire – anything which will allow the joint to move.
6. Tape a stick to the back of each part of the puppet.
7. Decorate as you wish – unless they are shadow puppets because no colours or patterns will be seen anyway.
8. Practice holding and moving your puppets.



ENJOY – be creative and imaginative. Work out your own ways of making it work.

