



HOME HOBBIES AWARD



PROJECT: PUPPETRY

GOALS

A. PUPPET PLAY: Write a puppet play script.

B. PUPPET PERFORMANCE: Create puppets and perform show for an audience.

A. PUPPET PLAY

Choose a favorite story that you love to retell to your friends and family. It can be something silly, serious, or adventurous. To help narrow story choices, chose a circumstance where something unexpected occurred, or your overcame a challenge.

Story Idea Prompts

- You were caught in the rain while hiking
- You met an unusual neighbor
- You met a famous person
- You saved a friend
- You won a sports competition
- Your enjoyed a unique vacation

TIP: If you can keep characters down to four or less, that will simplify performing, allowing two characters per person and less puppet changes.

Part 1—Shape the Story

Answer the following questions to outline your plot.

- Where did the story take place?
- Who are the characters?
- What were you trying to do?
- What problem did your face?
- How did you and/or the other characters solve the problem?
- How did everything end?

Part 2—Plan Your Puppets

1. Write out a short script for your play. Keep your character names straight and write it in a way that is possible to act out with puppets.

Script Formatting Example:

Character Name: [action to perform in brackets] Dialogue character says.

2. Determine how many puppets you will need
3. Figure out if you will need any props (paper cutout of a car or airplane, dog, tree, or any other setting object). Keep it simple for your first puppet play. Less is more.



B. PUPPET PRODUCTION

Part 1—Make Your Puppets

Choose one of the options below to make your puppets.

Option 1: Sock Puppets

- googly eyes
- yarn for hair
- fabric markers
- fabric

- Make one sock puppet per character.
- Keep in mind you only have two hands, so create simple characters.

Option 2: Paper “Lunch” Bag Puppets

- markers
- fabric
- yarn
- construction paper

- Paper lunch bags have a built in fold at the bottom that works well for puppet mouths.
- Use craft supplies to make each character distinct.
- Add eyes, hair, and clothing to your paper bag.

Option 3: Figure or Stick Puppet

- toy figures—one for each character
- OR two-dimensional paper cutout of your character
- popsicle stick
- glue or tape

- For a paper cutout: attach the paper cutout to a popsicle stick.
- For small plastic figures: attach to a popsicle stick for optimal handling during the play.

Part 2—Make a Puppet Box/Stage

- scissors
- large refrigerator box or thin wooden panel
- paint
- cloth

- Find a large box or piece of wood and cut out a square at about arm height for your puppets to show.
- Make sure you have an entrance in the back, and that the box will stay standing
- Paint the outside of the box or cover it with an inexpensive sheet.
- Decorate as desired.



Part 3—Pick Background Music and Lighting

1. Identify the mood of your story. If it's happy, pick a happy, light piece of music; if it's dramatic, pick an epic piece of music, etc.
2. Make sure your puppet stage is well lit, including light behind the stage. If you can, dim the lights in the audience area for effect.

Part 4—Perform Your Play

Use the following checklist to help guide your entire production process.

- Write your scripts, prepare your puppets, music and lighting.
- If you have more than two characters, recruit a second person to help you.
- Practice saying script aloud without puppets.
- Practice with scripts and puppets.
- Have a "dress rehearsal" with stage, music, lights, puppets, and script as you would perform.
- Perform your wonderful puppet play for at least one family member.

RESEARCH MORE

- *10-Minute Puppets* by Noel MacNeal
- *Puppet Play* by Diana Shoenbrun
- *Making Puppets Come Alive* by Larry Engler
- *Making Shadow Puppets* by Jill Bryant et al.
- *Kids Skits: Unique Dramas for Children's Ministry* by Peter Gaskell
- puppetresources.com and puppetsinc.com for free puppet scripts

My child has successfully completed the Project Goals for the topic—Puppetry.

Adult Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Complete SIX projects to earn your HOBBIES award)