

THE PUPPETS

You will need

1. Felt or stockinet for the heads and hands of the puppets and, if the puppet is to shed its clothes, the body as well.
 2. Scraps of black, white and red felt for the facial features.
 3. Soft stuffing for the head and hands.
 4. Thin card for head and hand tubes
 5. Fabric glue
 6. Scraps of wool and fur fabric for hair
 7. Various bits of braid, buttons, badges, feathers, and sequins.
 8. Tracing paper for the pattern pieces
 9. Medium black marker, pen and wax crayons for colouring the faces.
- You can use all sorts of heads for your puppet - See puppet sketch 1. Choose whatever fabric or design you would find easier for you. For the finger tube cut a piece of card 8 x 8cm, wrap around index finger and secure with tape. Insert into head and fasten to neck with fabric glue.
 - For the body - see puppet sketch 2 - cut two body pieces from the chosen material and join them together at the side and shoulder edges. Trim and clip into seam allowance at the curves. Turn right side out. Turn in neck edge 1cm and push neck edge of head into it. Slipstitch neck edge of body to the head.
 - For the hands, cut two pairs of hand pieces and join them around the edges leaving wrist edges open. Trim seams and turn right side out. Stuff the hands again leaving a space for the tube. For hand tubes cut two 8cm x 3cm strips of card. Roll up to fit fingers/thumb, secure with tape and ease into the hands. Fasten wrist edges of hands to the open ends of the tube. Push hands inside wrist edges of body, thumbs pointing upwards and sew in place.
 - You can dress the puppets as the characters they represent. Like actors/actresses the same puppet could play different characters, according to how you dress them.