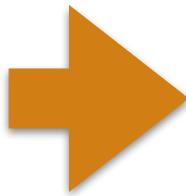


Make a Sock Puppet with



There is no wrong way to make a sock puppet. In fact, there are several ways to create each of the features of your one-of-a-kind creation. I'll share a variety of ideas with you as we go along, but I encourage you to be adventurous, have fun, and play with the materials as you make your choices.

Before you begin making your puppets, you'll need to gather tools and materials. Here is a list of the basics: a sock, scissors, glue dots, hot glue gun & hot glue sticks, assorted colours of duct tape or electrician's tape, pipe cleaners, stuffing, pom-poms, styrofoam balls, foam sheets (peel & stick), felt, fake fur, feathers, feather boas, tiny elastics, safety pins, google eyes, artificial flowers, markers, buttons, and yarn.



Pick a Sock!

Any sock will work well as long as it fits over your hand. Think about the character you want to create and then decide what kind of sock you want to choose from there. Some socks have a very unique look when they're turned inside out. Be sure to consider the types of materials and colours you'll use for eyes, nose, ears, hair, etc. that may influence your sock decision.

What kind of a mouth do you want?

The style of mouth must be decided before you add eyes or any other materials since it will affect the placement of all the other facial features. To create a very simple mouth, you can tuck the toe of the sock in and use it as a mouth. Chances are it will need to be re-tucked each time you place the puppet on your hand.

To make more of a "muppet" style mouth, simply cut out a rounded diamond shape (template is included at the end of the instructions) from a sheet of craft foam and attach it to the sock almost to the end of the toes. Sheets of craft foam are available in a multitude of colours. You can buy "peel & stick" foam and sparkly foam as well. Stiff "peel & stick" felt can be used instead of foam if you wish. Attaching the foam or felt to the sock is the one time I always use a glue gun, otherwise the mouth piece may pull right off of the sock. It is especially important to use of bead of hot glue close to the outside edge on the back-side of the mouth piece. If you are working with young children, you may want to attach the mouth piece to your socks ahead of time.





Eyes

Eyes are the most important facial feature on a puppet because they bring your puppet to life. Some puppet builders choose to place the eyes last in order to get the focus just right. Other builders, myself included, like to decide on the eye placement as soon as the mouth is done. It allows you to place the other features in a way that compliments or highlights the eyes.

There are so many ways to create eyes. Try out lots of different options before choosing. It's easy to just place the eyes on the puppet without attaching them, in order to assess whether they create the look you want.

Keep in mind that you don't necessarily have to limit yourself to 2 eyes! It's your creation. It can have as many eyes as you want.

Here are a few ideas to consider:

- **Styrofoam balls** on the outside of the sock - pupils and irises can be added by using googly eyes, felt circles, markers, etc.
- **Pom-poms** can be used in the same way
- **Styrofoam balls** can be placed on the inside of the sock by using a small elastic to wrap and bind each "eye" on the outside of the sock (see illustrations below)
- Buttons, felt circles, dried lima beans, or ping-pong balls are a few more ideas for creating awesome eyes.



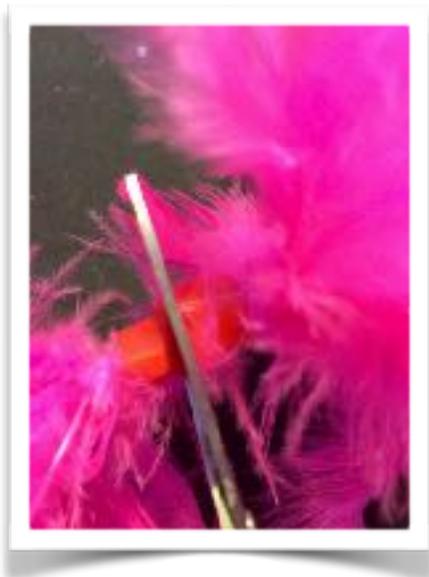
Attaching Things Together

Glue Guns - For a safety conscious person with good hand/eye coordination, a glue gun is by far the fastest and strongest way to attach things together. If you're working with someone who does not fit this description, there are some alternatives available.

Glue Dots - This is a safe and easy way for young children (and everyone else) to attach things such as googly eyes, buttons, pom-poms, felt circles, and other light-weight items to the sock puppet. Glue Dots are available in craft and art supply stores. The glue dots are on a roll of waxy paper. You simply press the item you want to attach, onto the dot. Lift the item from the roll (with the glue dot now attached) and then press it onto the part of the puppet where you want it to stick. It's worth it to purchase good quality glue dots. The cheap dollar store glue dots don't work very well.



Safety Pins are a great way to attach feather boas. The feathers hide the safety pin and should you decide to remove or change the position of the boa, you just have to unpin it.



A Note About Cutting Feather Boas -

To stop feathers from falling off a cut feather boa, wrap a piece of matching electricians tape or duct tape around the boa in the spot where you want to cut it. Cut through the middle of the tape.

Pipe Cleaners can be poked right into the sock and out again, providing opportunity to attach all sorts of things to the pipe cleaners for greater security. Here are a few fun ideas:

- Use the pipe cleaner as antennae
- Coil the pipe cleaner around a pencil to create a colourful spring
- Poke the pipe cleaner into a styrofoam ball to make eyeballs on “stalks”
- Glue, tape or twist a flower, butterfly or feathers onto the end of a pipe cleaner

Tape - To attach a small “bouquet” of flowers or feathers onto a pipe cleaner, wrap tape around the bottom of the “bouquet” and then twist the pipe cleaner around the taped part. Putting a dab of glue or a glue dot on the tape before wrapping the pipe cleaner, will make the whole thing nice and strong.



Noses & Ears & Hair, OH MY!

Attention to details make a big difference in the look of your finished sock puppet. Features such as noses, ears and hair influence the way we see the puppet's personality.

As you look at your assortment of materials, ask yourself questions such as, "Would this make a good nose?", "How could I style this to look like hair?", "Does using this duster suit my puppet's personality?" "What works better, the pompom or the flower nose?" Don't hesitate to get your puppet's opinion. You might be surprised at how much they have to say about the options!



Mouth Piece Template



The template to the left can be cut out and traced on to the craft foam sheet or stiff felt sheet you will be using for the inside of your puppet's mouth. You may want to adjust the size of the template according to the size of the sock and the size of the hand that will be manipulating the puppet's mouth.

Even if you are using "peel & stick" materials for the inside of the mouth, remember to reinforce it with hot glue to give it lots of strength.

It is especially important to reinforce the edges of the mouth (on the backside of the mouth piece).

For more information about building puppets and bringing them to life, check out www.artfulconnections.ca.