

Animal Marionette



A variety of sizes of paper or plastic cups can be used depending on the size of puppet needed. String should be thin, white and strong. (fishing line works well but is difficult for younger children to use)

- length of string depends on the size of theatre used for the play
- long enough to hide the puppeteer's hand but short enough for good control

Assemble Structure

Holes can be made in the cups using a knitting needle, the point of a drawing compass, an awl or any small pointy instrument.

Head and rear body strings should be knotted several times on one end and drawn through the top holes of the body cup. Secure the knotted ends inside the cup with pieces of tape.

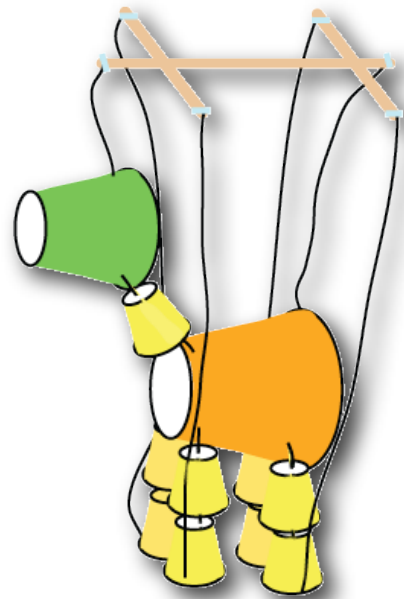
- thread head string through the holes in neck and head cups
- attach to front of the controller
- attach rear string to back of controller.

Leg cups can be more easily attached by using 2 long strings instead of 4. Cut strings longer than needed and trim the extra when done.

- thread string for front legs through the two holes at the bottom front of the body
- even up the length hanging out on each side

(knitting needle could be used to help push string through)

- slide one small leg cup onto string and tie a knot to keep it in place
- slide another cup onto string so that the first cup overlaps a little and tie a knot to keep it in place
- continue with each leg string until 4 legs are finished to the desired length
(size and type of cup used will determine whether 2, 3 or 4 cups are used for each leg)
- pull leg strings once more to check that legs are of equal length
- secure the leg strings inside body cup with tape



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Controller

-Glue 3 Craft Sticks (wide, flat, 6" long) to make a controller
(2 if not using back leg strings)

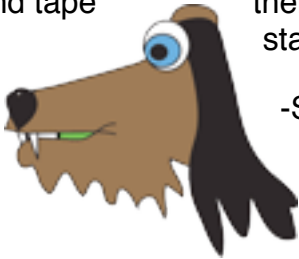
- holes can be carefully drilled to draw strings through to be knotted
- for younger children strings can be left long enough to simply wrap around the ends of the sticks and secured with tape

NOTE:

This marionette works quite well with only the head and rear body strings attached to the controller. Strings can be used to add more movement to the front and/or rear legs.

Characters

Using separate cups the same size as the head cup, a variety of animal characters can share the same frame. Construction paper can be used to cover the "snout" and folded or "sculpted" to make the upper part of the head. Younger children can cut out eyes and tape them on the side of the cup or make them stand up on the head with the ears..



-Simply slide the character heads on and off the frame head during the play. This also works well to show different emotional states of the same character- e.g. make the same head but change mouth to show fangs).

Body colours, tail shapes etc. can be changed by creating several wrap around coverings to temporarily tape onto the body cup.

Since a tail can be an expressive part of an animal, a string could be attached to it for another control for the puppeteer, but make sure the tail is securely taped to the body. A braided wool tail works well for this.

Instead of a string on the tail, a thin piece of wire placed inside the tail gives the opportunity to bend it into different shapes.