

# Puppets, Dolls, and Plays



You are learning about many kinds of art, such as painting and sculpture. Did you know that making puppets and dolls is an art, too? You can use them in plays or stories.

## 1. Finger Puppets

Turn the fingers of a glove into little puppets. Then put on a play.

You will need:

- An old cloth or knitted glove.
- Piece of ribbon.
- String.
- Thread.
- Yarn.
- Glue.
- Scraps of old material.
- Markers.
- Small buttons.
- Beads.
- Tissue paper.

1. Make five grape-sized balls with the tissue paper, and stuff one into each finger of the glove.
2. Tie a piece of ribbon or yarn on the outside of the glove and under the tissue ball.
3. Make a face on each fingertip with the markers, or sew or glue on buttons or beads.
4. Glue threads or yarn on the tip of the finger for hair.
5. Use yarn and scraps of cloth to dress your puppet.
6. Tell a story using your finger puppets.



## Try It!

## 2. Yarn Doll

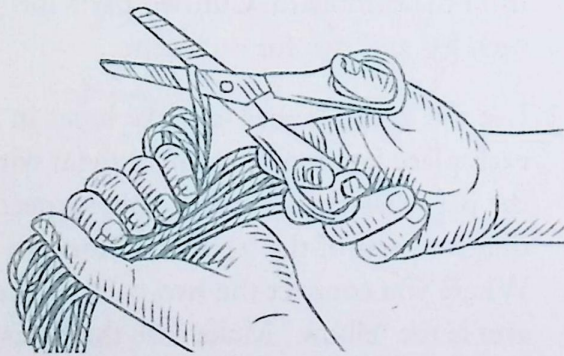
Have fun putting a yarn doll together.

You will need:

- Yarn or heavy thread.
- A small ball, a small round pebble, or a small ball of yarn.
- Ribbons.
- Cloth scraps.
- Buttons.
- Other materials you like.

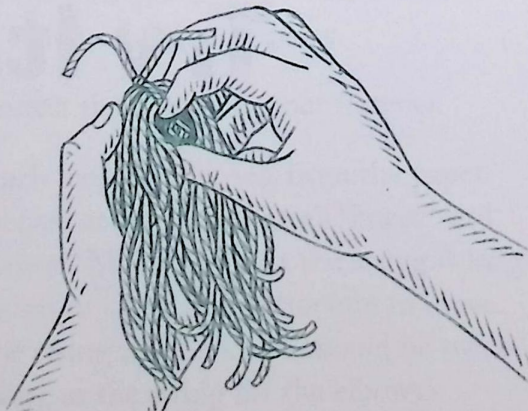
1. Cut the yarn into strips the length of this page.

2. Make enough strips to fill your hand.

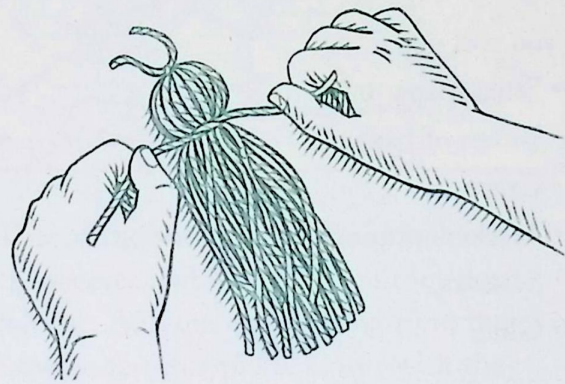


3. Tie all the strips together at the top.

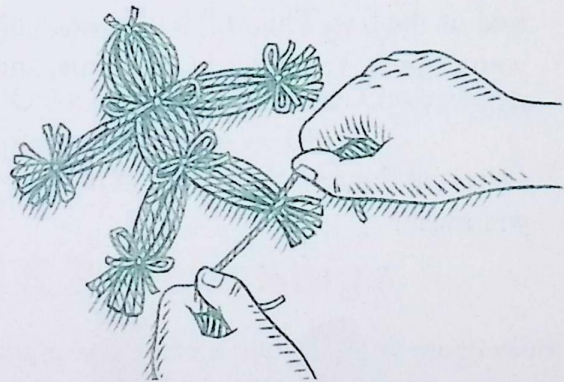
4. Insert a Ping-Pong ball, pebble, or small ball of yarn to give shape to the head.



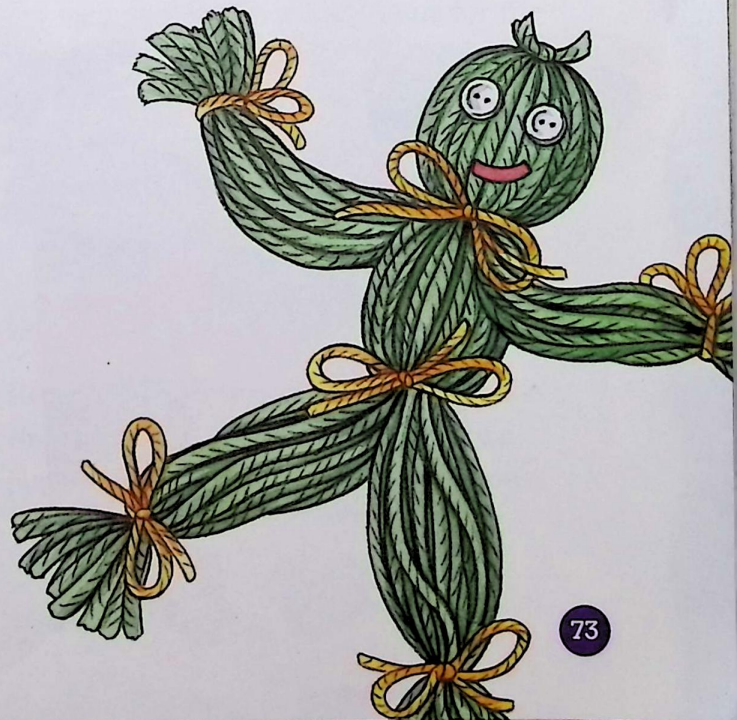
5. Tie another string to the bottom of the ball to make a neck.



6. Make arms and legs and a waist, as in the drawing.



7. Use cloth and ribbons to dress the doll.



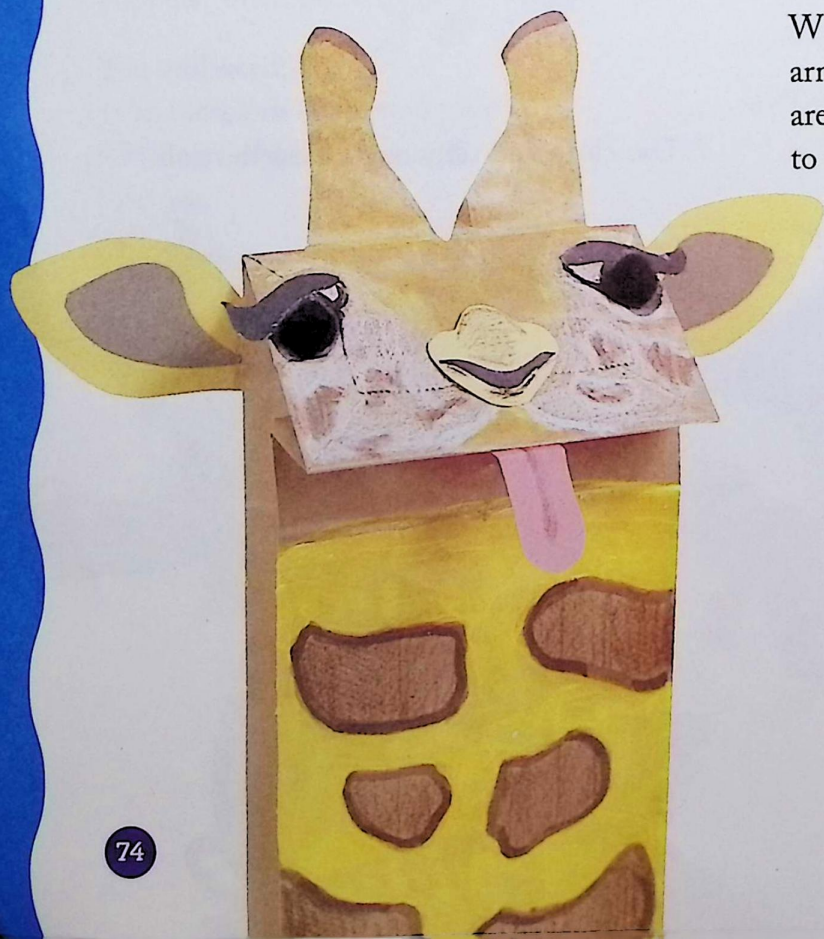
### 3. Paper Bag Puppet

Use a paper bag to make an animal puppet.

You will need:

- Small paper bags.
- Pieces of paper.
- Crayons.
- Markers or paint.
- Scissors.
- Glue.

1. Place the paper bag flat on a table with the bottom fold on top.
2. Draw and color designs on the bottom fold of the bag. This will be the head of your puppet. You can add eyes, ears, and hair.
3. Decorate the rest of the bag. What did you make?



### 4. Marionette

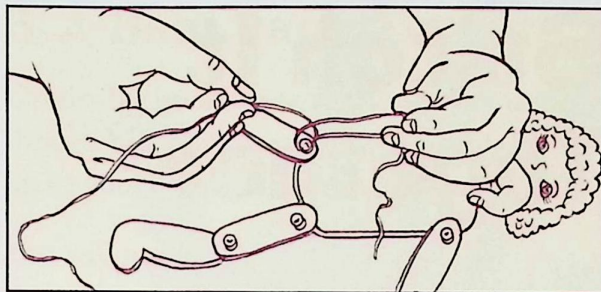
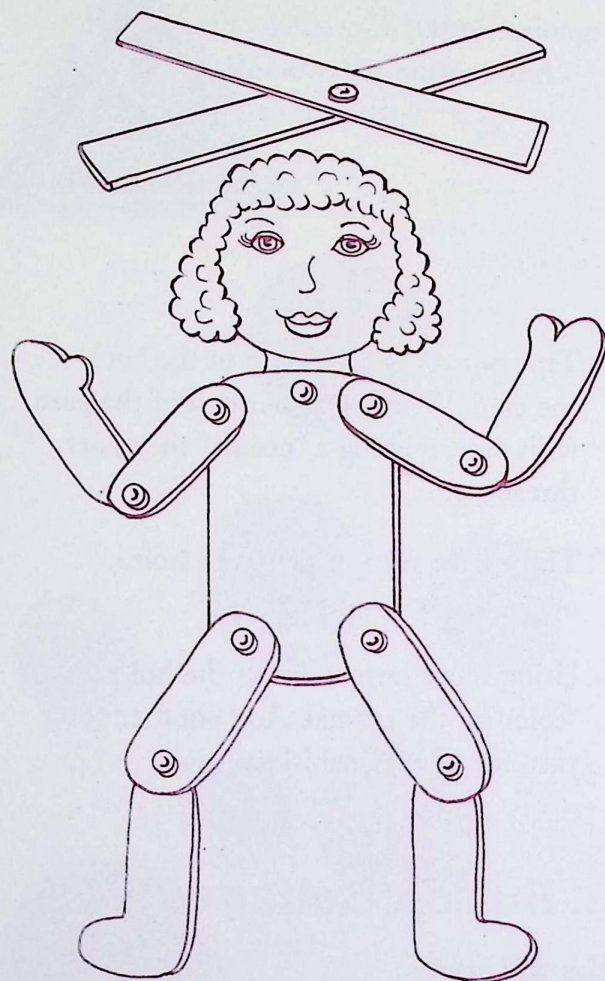
A marionette is a puppet that dangles from strings. You can make just about any marionette figure from cardboard.

You will need:

- A couple of sheets of heavy paper (for body and head).
- A sheet of cardboard (for crosspieces).
- Scissors.
- Paper fasteners (brads).
- String.
- Hole puncher.

1. Cut out a head, a body, arms, and legs from the cardboard. Cut two parts for each leg and two for each arm.
2. Use the hole puncher to make holes in each piece before you connect them with the paper fasteners. Where you connect the two parts of the leg is the "knee." Where you connect the two parts of the arm is the "elbow." Make sure the holes are big enough to allow the arms and legs to move easily.

**Try It!**



3. Fasten the parts together with the paper fasteners.
4. Cut out two crosspieces from the cardboard.
5. Use the hole puncher to make a hole in the center of each crosspiece.
6. Connect them with a paper fastener.
7. Attach lengths of string from the paper fasteners at the marionette's "knees" and "elbows." Make sure that the string is long enough to allow the marionette to move. (The string for the knees should be twice as long as the string for the elbows).

8. Thread the string through the holes in the crosspieces and knot them so they don't fall out. Add one more string from the head to the crosspiece. Cover with the paper fastener.
9. Hold the crosspiece in one hand and pull on the strings with the other. Your marionette should move easily.
10. Color in your marionette. Or dress it in paper doll clothes or fabric.

## 5. A Puppet Stage

A stage will make a puppet show much more fun. A puppet stage will have three parts—the stage itself, a curtain, and scenery.

Try using a box, a table, or chairs for the stage, and a sheet, a towel, or a tablecloth for the curtain. What can you use for scenery? Look around your home or meeting place, or cut out some shapes from heavy cardboard.

## 6. Safety Play

Read about safety on pages 62-69 in the *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook*. Create a puppet show about safety do's and don'ts.