

PUPPETS

WHAT IS A PUPPET?

A puppet is a toy that can be used as a character - a person or an animal - in games or theatrical representations to entertain and educate at the same time. You can move a puppet with strings or by putting your hand inside it and use your creative potential to give life to this new being.

The puppet is a visual metaphor representing 'reality'. Students who make use of this tool become more receptive to learning, ask more questions, perform required tasks, participate and contribute their ideas easily and more naturally. Puppets involve and attract volunteers and affect class productivity as a whole.

Puppets can be used as a means to read a text, clarify a problem or situation and even encourage shy students to participate.

When assessing the use of puppets in education, we can highlight three main functions: they are entertaining, educational and therapeutic.

- provide an interactive experience;
- stimulate verbal response;
- encourage sharing of thoughts and ideas;
- tell stories;
- project emotions and feelings (joy, sadness, anger, etc.);
- build an environment of harmony.

WARM-UPS

Teachers may introduce a new unit by using puppets. At this stage, depending on the subject, they may probably ask questions such as:

Puppet: *Who loves animals?*

Students: ...

Puppet: *Have you got have a pet?*

Students: ...

Puppet: *Do you take care of it?*

Students: ...

HOW CAN WE USE A PUPPET?

Regardless of the material with which they are made - fabric, paper, clay, etc. - puppets will eventually turn into characters. The 'puppeteer' is the person who creates movement and gives voice to puppets.

The puppet comes to life, moves and talks and instead of tissue, paper and clay, we see a hero, a villain or a figure that makes us laugh.

Puppets can be used by the teacher to:

- greet children and ask their names;
- gain the attention of the class;
- praise and encourage students;
- teach a curriculum component;
- introduce vocabulary and dialogues;
- recite a verse or sing a song;
- create sound effects;

DIALOGUES

Puppets can read and display the sample dialogues that appear in the Student's Book:

Puppet 1: *Where is Teddy Bear, Mr Frog?*

Puppet 2: *He is in the garden.*

VOCABULARY

Puppets may be used to teach vocabulary, introduce new lexical items, make jokes, etc.:

Puppet: *Julia, where is your pencil?*

*This is an orange. Can you repeat, Ana?
Carla, show me your book, please. Thank you.*

Leo, touch your ear, please!

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STORY TELLING

A story may be told with the help of puppets.

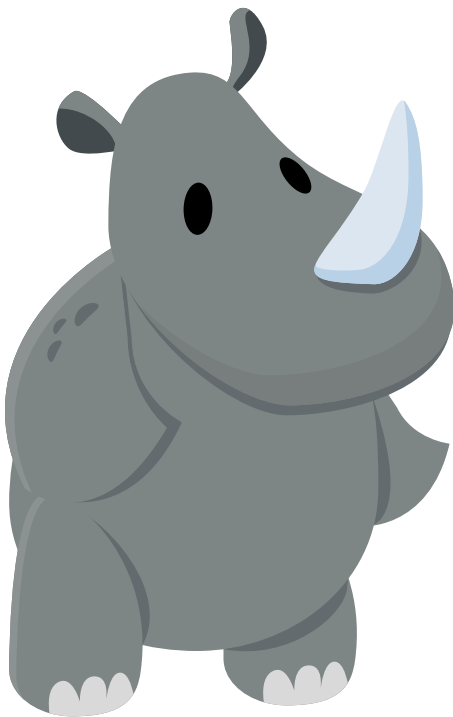
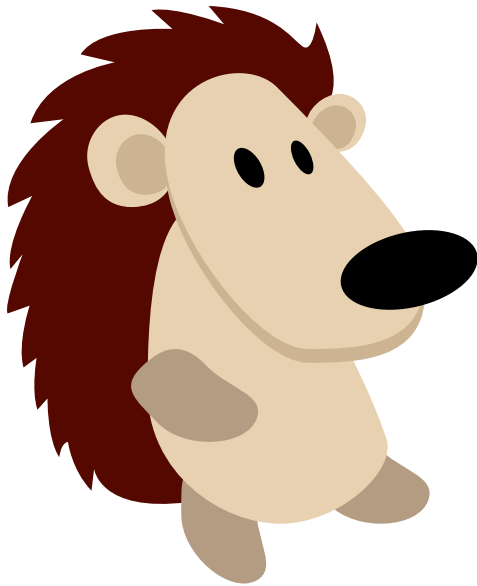
- Do not use puppets just to tell the story; they should talk and do things, otherwise, they may become tiring or boring. Use them in situations that require the solution of a problem or to ask questions about the story.
- Set the scene; get acquainted with the story.
- Create the character's personality.
- Start by reading the text (poem, song, narration).
- Clarify the vocabulary.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

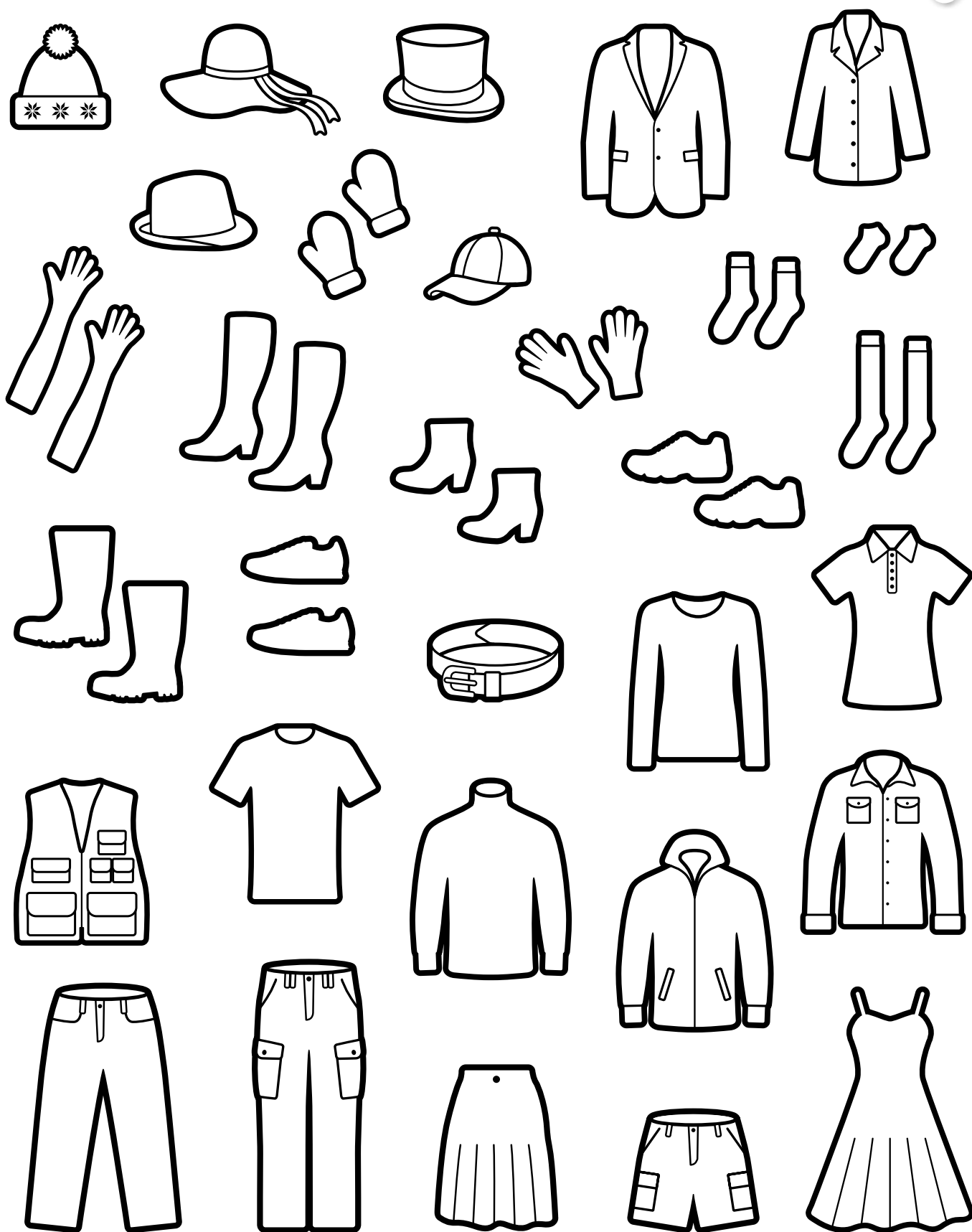
Puppets give students the opportunity to:

- develop visual, auditory and tactile perception;
- develop perception of facts sequence - spatiotemporal notion;
- develop coordination of movements;
- develop gestural, oral and artistic expression;
- develop memory and vocabulary;
- develop creative expression and imagination;
- develop oral and spontaneous expression;
- create a character;
- turn information into words;
- gain confidence and personal satisfaction;
- develop sociability and interactivity;
- acquire problem-solving skills;
- improve motor skills;
- improve listening skills;
- recreate the world.

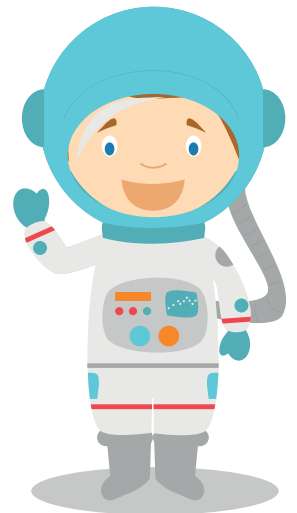
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ANIMAL STICK PUPPETS



Materials:

- Printable paper
- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Craft sticks
- Glue or sellotape

Steps:

- Print out the animals page.
- Stick the page on cardboard.
- Cut out the paper animals.
- Glue or tape a stick at the back of each paper animal.
- Use your animal stick puppets.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

Activity 1

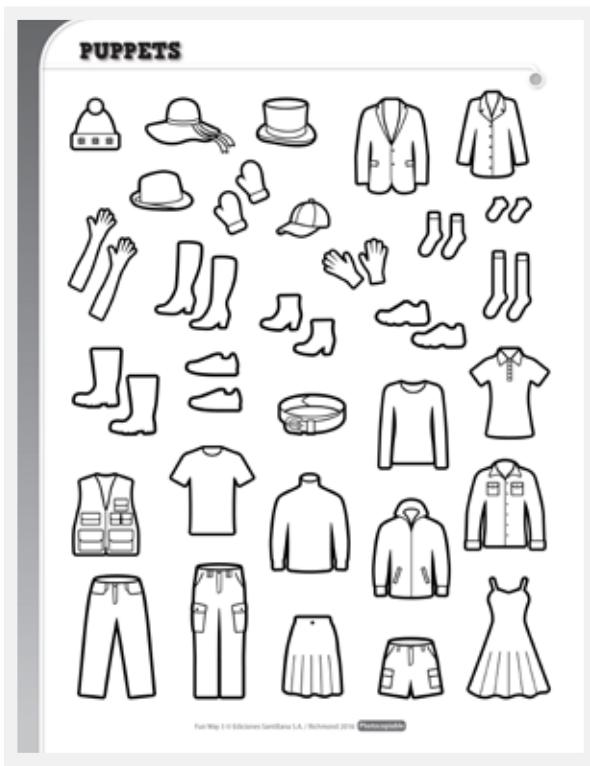
- Students hold a stick animal puppet in their hands.
- Teacher: *Where are the ducks?*
- Students who are holding a duck: *Here! Quack-quack!*
- Teacher: *Where are the pigs?*
- Students who are holding a pig: *Here! Oink-oink!*
- Students and teacher repeat the procedure with the rest of the animal puppets.

Activity 2

- Students hold a stick animal puppet in their hands.
- Teacher: *What can you do?*
- Student who is holding a cheetah: *I can run fast!*
- Student who is holding a hen: *I can take care of chicks!*
- Student who is holding a bird: *I can fly!*
- Students and teacher repeat the procedure with the rest of the animal puppets.

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DRESSED PUPPETS



Materials:

- Printable paper
- White cardboard
- Scissors
- Coloured pencils, markers or crayons
- Wool or thread
- Glue

Steps:

- Print out the items of clothing.
- Draw the silhouette of a boy/girl on a piece of white cardboard.
- Draw and colour a face on the silhouette head.
- Cut out the silhouette.
- Stick wool or thread on the silhouette head so that it looks like hair.
- Choose the items of clothing you want for your puppet.
- Colour the clothes.

- Cut them out.
- Glue the clothes onto the silhouette.
- Use your dressed puppets.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

Activity 1

- Students hold a dressed puppet in their hands.
- Teacher: *Peter, what's your puppet's name?*
- Student: *Nancy.*
- Teacher: *How old is she?*
- Student: *She's ten years old.*
- Teacher: *What is she wearing?*
- Student: *She's wearing a blue hat, a white blouse, a pink skirt and brown shoes.*
- Teacher and students repeat the procedure with the rest of the dressed puppets.
- Teacher: *Great! Now... what are you wearing?*
- Student: *I'm wearing...*

- Students give life to their puppets and make them talk and move.
- Students move their puppets around the classroom and make nice comments as they go past their partners.
- Student 1 (making a funny voice): *Hi! I like your blue jacket!*
- Student 2 (making a funny voice): *Thank you! I like your brown shoes!*

Activity 2

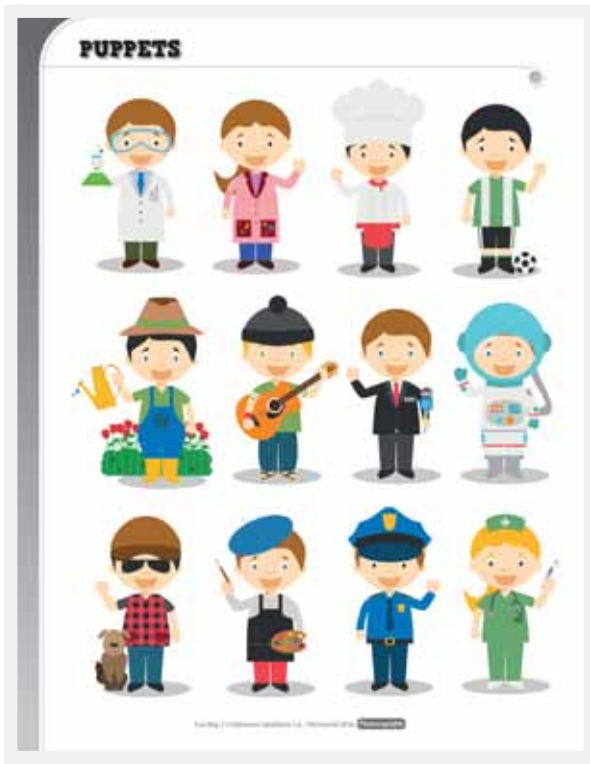
- Student's work in pairs.
- Students hide their puppets in order not to be seen by their partners.
- Students sit back to back without looking at each other.
- Students have a conversation as if their puppets were talking.
- Student 1: *Hi, my name's Anna!*
- Student 2: *Hello! I 'm Jessy.*

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- Student 1: *Are you wearing socks?*
- Student 2: *Yes, I am.*
- Student 1: *What colour are your socks?*
- Student 2: *They're green.*
- Student 1: *Are you wearing a T-shirt?*
- Student 2: *No, I am not. I'm wearing a dress.*
- Student 1: *What colour is your dress?*
- Student 2: *It's yellow.*
- Students go on until all their puppets' items of clothing have been described.
- When they finish the conversation both puppets are shown.
- Students present their partner's puppet to the rest of the class.
- Student 1: *This is Jessy. She's wearing a pink dress, green socks... etc.*

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JOB MARIONETTES



Materials:

- Printable paper
- Cardboard
- String
- Scissors
- Glue

Steps:

- Stick the printable page on cardboard.
- Cut out the figures.
- Cut two pieces of string into equal lengths of 20 cm.
- Stick the two pieces of string at the back of each figure's head.
- Wait until the glue has dried up.
- Hold the string ends in each hand.
- Pull the strings and move your marionette.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

Activity 1

- Students hold their marionettes.
- In pairs, students give life to their marionettes by making them speak and move.
- Student 1: *Hi! what's your name?*
- Student 2: *I'm Lily.*
- Student 1: *Hi Lily, I'm Ted!*
- Student 2: *What's your job Ted?*
- Student 1: *I'm a teacher. What's your job, Lily?*
- Student 2: *I'm a nurse.*
- When students have finished, they change partners and have new exchanges with other learners.

Activity 2

- Teacher: He is wearing a blue uniform and a blue cap.
- Students with officer marionettes stand up and while they make their marionettes dance, they shout *He's an officer!*
- Student 1: *He's wearing a white jacket, white hat, pink apron, grey trousers and black shoes.*
- Students with cook marionettes stand up and while they make their marionettes dance, they shout *He's a cook!*
- Teacher and students go on until all the learners have participated and all the marionettes' clothes have been described.

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INTERNATIONAL HAND PUPPETS



Materials:

- Printable paper
- Cardboard
- A sock
- Two buttons
- Wool
- Thread
- A needle
- Scissors
- Glue

Steps:

- Stick the printable page on cardboard.
- Cut out the round flags in order to create flag badges.
- Use a sock –one you don't use anymore- to create a hand puppet.
- Stick wool on the puppet's head to make its hair.

- Sew two buttons on the puppet's face to make its eyes.
- Stick a flag badge on the puppet's chest.
- Make sure all the puppets have different nationalities.
- Wait until the glue has dried up.
- Put your hand inside the sock and give life to your hand puppet.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

Activity 1

- Students hold puppets with their visible badges.
- In pairs, students make their puppets speak and move.
- Student 1: *Hi! I'm Edward. What's your name?*
- Student 2: *Hi! I'm Vicky. Where are you from, Edward?*
- Student 1: *I'm from the United Kingdom. Where are you from?*
- Student 2: *I'm from Argentina. What colour is your flag?*
- Student 1: *It's blue, red and white. What colour is your flag?*
- Student 2: *It's light-blue and white.*
- When students have finished, they change partners and have new exchanges with other learners.

Activity 2

- Students hold puppets with their visible badges.
- In pairs, students make their puppets speak and move.
- Student 1: *Where is The United Kingdom?*
- Student 2: *It's in Europe. It's north of France. Where is Argentina?*
- Student 1: *It's in South America. It's south of Bolivia, Paraguay and Brazil and it's east of Chile.*
- When students have finished, they change partners and have new exchanges with other learners.