

How to make... a creepy crawly puppet

By Emma Brierley/Temporary Commons
Suitable for ages 8 - 12 independent working
Suitable for ages 5 - 8 with adult help

Spring is here - all the bugs, insects and creepy crawlies are waking up and wriggling around.

To celebrate the warmer weather I've made a silly springy creepy crawly puppet from cardboard and paper, perhaps you'd like to make one too?

You will need:

- Pencil (HB or coloured)
- Scissors
- A cardboard box (packaging box, or cereal box)
- 3 sheets of A4 paper (coloured or white)
- PVA glue
- An old clean yoghurt cup for the PVA glue
- A glue spreader (could be a strip of cardboard)
- A gluestick
- A mug/cup or something circular of a similar size
- Something heavy - like a book, or a stone
- Paint, coloured pencils or coloured pens (optional)
- Paper hole punch and string, or needle and thread (optional)



Instructions

Step 1:

Choose two sheets of A4 paper, they can be the same colour or different.

If you are using white paper, you might want to decorate it with paint, coloured pencils or pens before moving on to Step 2.

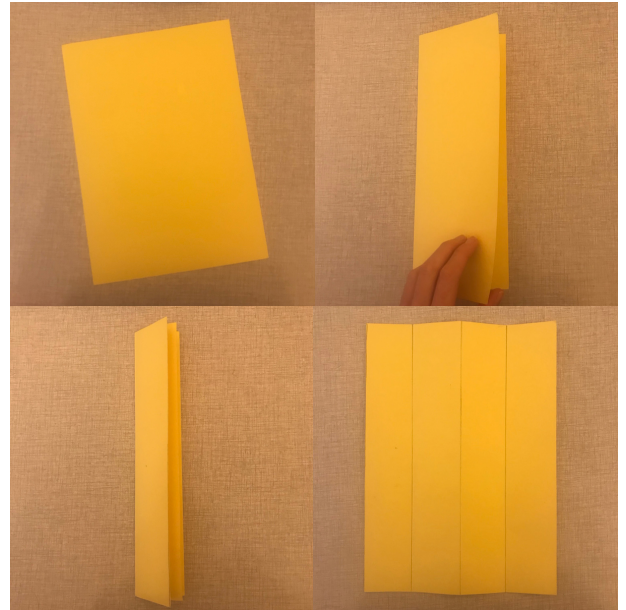


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Step 2:

With your paper in portrait mode, fold it in half and make a crease down the middle. Then fold it in half again.

When you open the paper back up there should be creases dividing the sheet into four equal parts. Do this again with another sheet of paper.



Step 3:

Use your scissors to cut down these lines to make eight separate strips of paper.

Step 4:

Divide your strips of paper into two groups of four - mix and match the paper colours however you like.



Step 5:

Pour a little PVA glue into the clean yoghurt pot. Lay the first group of paper in one long line, then use your glue spreader to carefully put PVA on the ends of each piece of paper and join them together to make one long strip.

Do the same with the second group.

You should now have two long strips of paper.

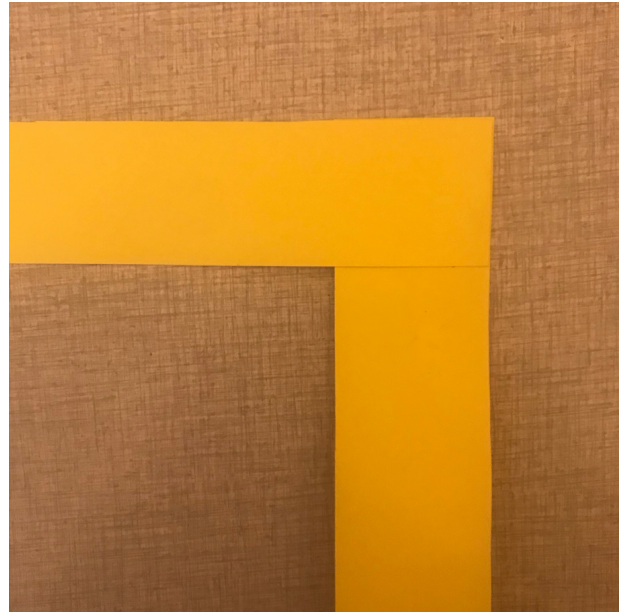


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Step 6:

Lay the ends of the two long strips on top of each other to make a corner shape and glue together.

Set them to one side until all the glue has dried.

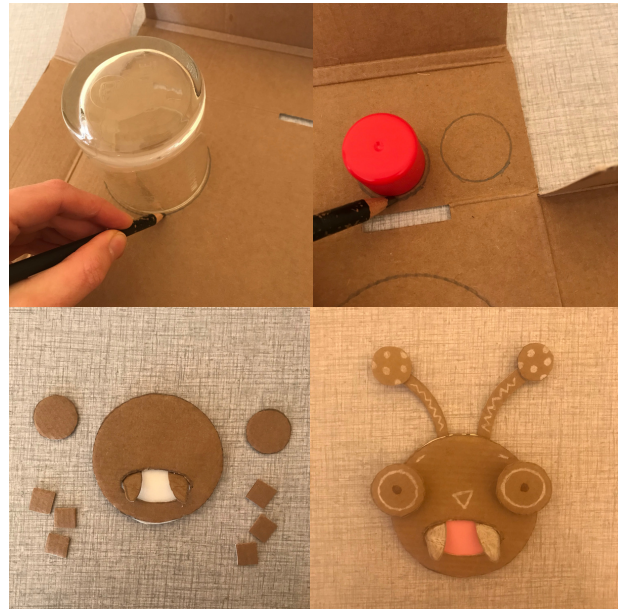


Step 7:

Take your cup and lay it on top of the cardboard, then use a pencil to draw around it to make a circle on the cardboard. Cut out the circle. This is going to become the head of your creepy crawly.

I decorated mine with big eyes, antenna and teeth made from cardboard and stuck onto the circle with PVA glue. I used a white pencil to draw on polka dots and zigzag details.

You could do the same, or you could decorate however you like, perhaps with paper collage, or pencils, pens or paint.

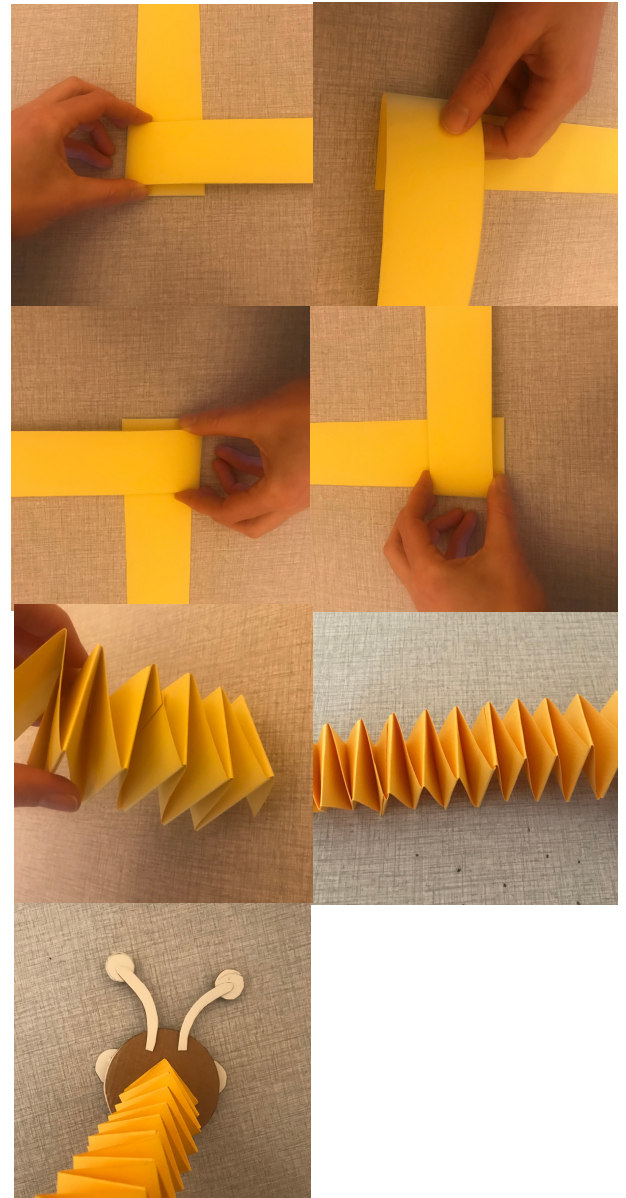


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Step 8:

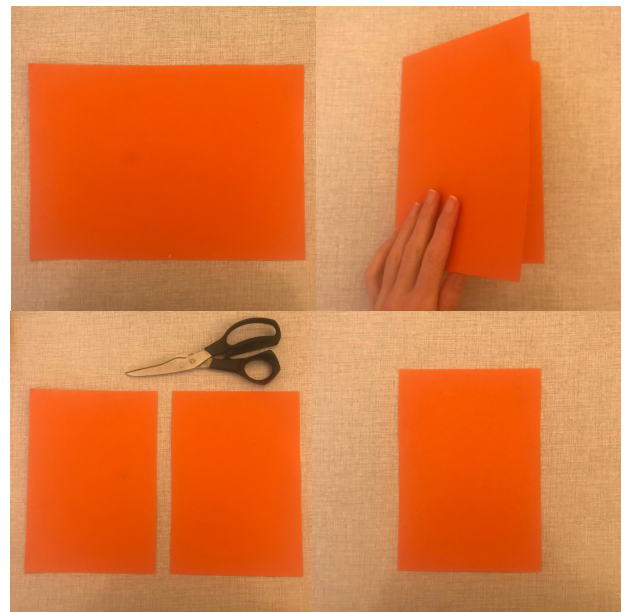
The glue on your strips of paper should now be dry. Fold the paper strips back and forth on top of one another to make a paper spring. This spring is your creepy crawly's body.

Once you've folded all the paper, use the PVA glue to stick that end of the body to the back of the creepy crawly's head - you might want to weigh the spring down with something heavy like a book or a stone to stop it from springing apart while the glue dries.



Step 9:

Take another sheet of A4 paper, this time lay it in landscape mode. Fold it in half, then use scissors to cut down that line. Fold one of those pieces in half, then again, then again.



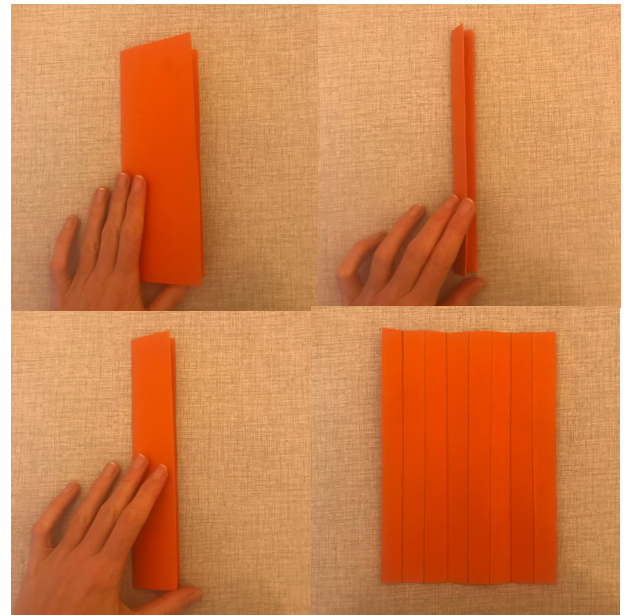
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Step 9 (continued):

When you open the paper up there should be creases dividing the sheet into eight equal parts.

Use your scissors to cut down six of these creases.

These six strips of paper are the six legs for your creepy crawly.

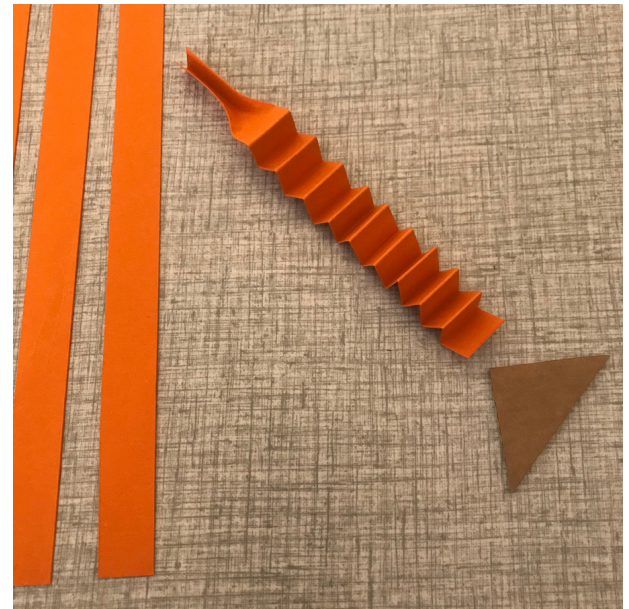


Step 10:

Draw six feet onto your cardboard.

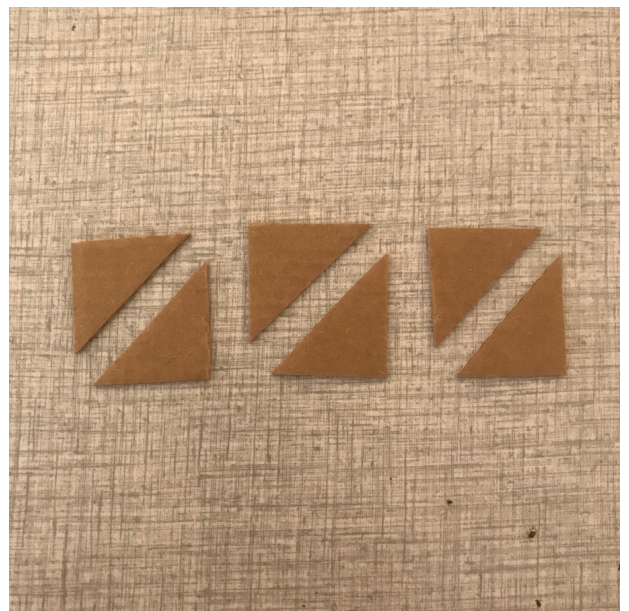
I made six triangles, but you can choose whatever shape you'd like. Then decorate the feet with polka dots or stripes or however you'd like to.

Cut out the six feet with your scissors.



Step 11:

With the gluestick, attach the feet onto the leg's zigzag folded end.



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Step 12:

Fold each leg strip back and forth like a fan or a zigzag, stop folding just before you reach the end and pinch the paper instead.

Step 13:

Position three legs on each side of the creepy crawly's body.

Use the gluestick on the leg's pinched ends and push that pinch into a crease in the body spring, pinch the spring together for 30 seconds to make sure the glue dries and that the leg stays put. Do the same for all six legs.



Step 14:

My creepy crawly really enjoys hopping, jumping, leaping and springing like a jack-in-the-box, especially when there's some fun music playing that it can dance around to.

Play with your puppet and decide if you want to add strings or not. If you would like to do that, move onto step 15.



Step 15:

Make one hole at either end of the paper spring body - you can either use a paper hole punch or a needle to do this.

Then pass some string, or wool or thread through each hole.

You can then use the strings to move your puppet around like a marionette.

