

How to make... a mermaid puppet

Suitable for ages 6 - 11

You will need:

- A toilet or kitchen roll tube
- Tissue, magazine pages or wrapping paper offcuts
- Thin card
- Wool, crepe paper or paper cut into strips
- Chopstick, wooden skewer or lolly stick
- Decorations
- Scissors
- Glue
- Sticky tape/stapler
- Template for body if you want to use it



If you enjoyed Lizzie Wort's reading of *The Singing Mermaid*, why not try making your own mermaid or merman puppet? You could make some different characters to play the parts in your own story.

Instructions

Step 1:

Take a kitchen paper or toilet roll tube and fold and flatten one end. If you don't have one you can roll cardboard into a tube and stick with tape or staple.



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Step 2:

Cut a triangle shape out of the folded end of the tube to make the end of the tail.



Step 3:

Cover the tube with tissue paper or paint it so that approx. two thirds is the colour of the tail and the rest is the colour of the skin. You could also collage this with magazine pages or wrapping paper offcuts.

Step 4:

Draw around the template provided of the mermaid's head and arms or draw your own on thin card. Make sure it is the right size for the tube you have. Paint it or cover it with paper to match the skin on the tail. Insert the body into the tail and secure with glue.



Step 5:

Add facial features and hair. You can use wool or crepe paper cut into thin strips for making hair.



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Step 6:

Decorate your puppet. Shiny materials like sweet or chocolate wrappers, tin foil, or sequins help the tail to shimmer.



What next?

Make an underwater scene: Make a background for your mermaid to swim in front of. Draw and colour underwater creatures, rocks and seaweed on a big piece of paper. If you don't have a big piece of paper you can tape some smaller pieces together at the back.

Research: Mermaids are mythical creatures. What can you find out about mermaids? Write a list of mermaid 'facts'. Write a list of other mythical creatures.

Template:

