

How to make... a squirrel puppet

By Ellie Mills, Little Angel Theatre
Suitable for ages 8 - 11 independent working

Make this cheeky little red squirrel puppet with just a few things from around your house.

If you are feeling creative you can use this basic template and make any animal you like.

You will need:

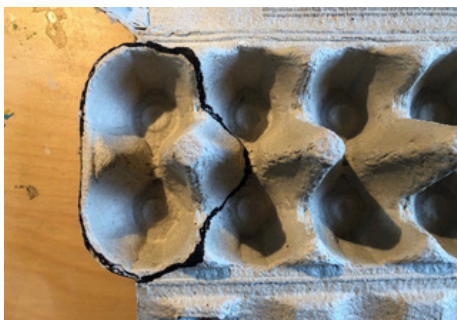
- Toilet roll tube
- Small piece of cardboard
- String
- 1 spilt pin paper fastener
- Egg box
- Black and red card (optional)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pencil/pen
- Paints
- Paintbrushes
- Bamboo skewer or sharp pencil (to make small holes)



Instructions

Step 1:

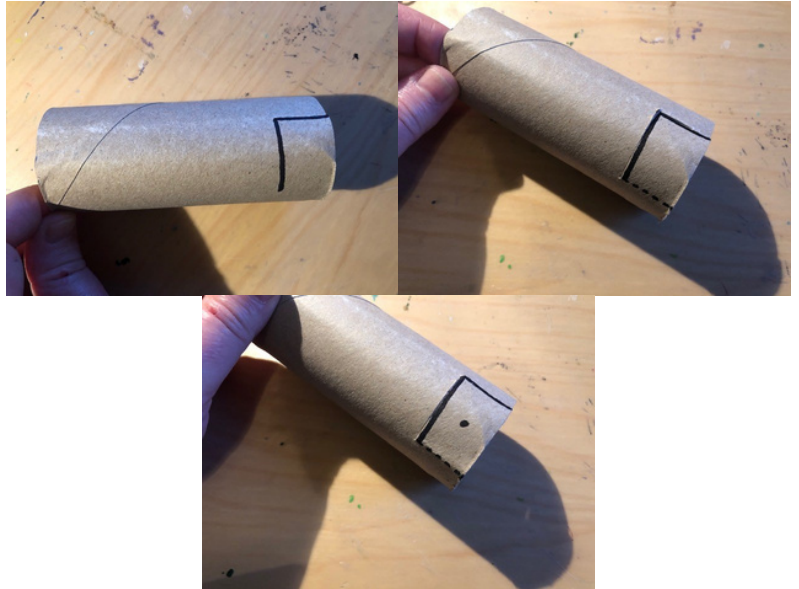
Cut up your egg box following the lines in the pictures. This will give you the head of your puppet.



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Step 2:

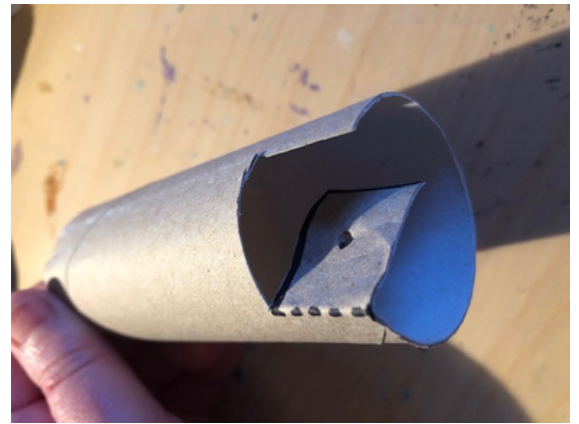
Take your toilet roll tube and draw a small line up from the bottom about 2cm long. From the top of this line draw another at a right angle to make an 'L' shape. Join this back to the bottom of the tube with a dotted line, then mark a spot in the middle of this rectangle.



Step 3:

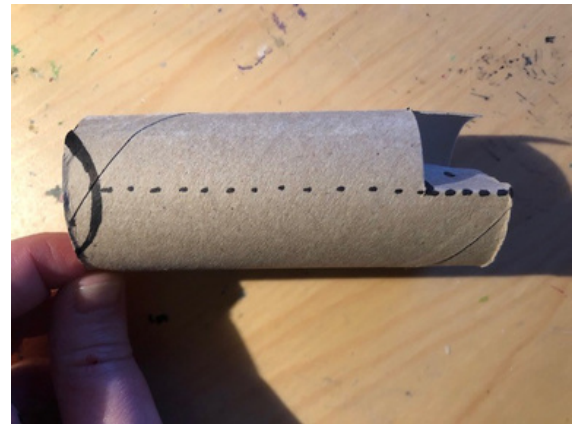
Using a bamboo skewer or sharp pencil pierce a hole in the toilet roll tube where you marked the centre of the rectangle.

Cut along the bold lines and fold along the dotted line. Your toilet roll should look like the picture.



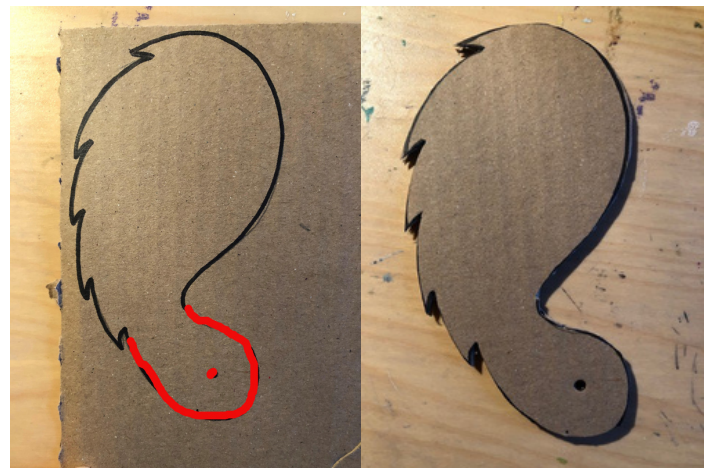
Step 4:

Follow your dotted line up to the top of your toilet roll. Draw a small curve here like in the picture and cut it out.



Step 5:

Draw out a tail shape on a piece of cardboard. You could use our template or draw one of your own. If you draw one of your own you will need a little extra at the base as a pivot point, like the one marked on the drawing in red.



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Step 6:

Paint all your pieces. Remember your dotted line and cut curve will lie at the centre back of your squirrel.



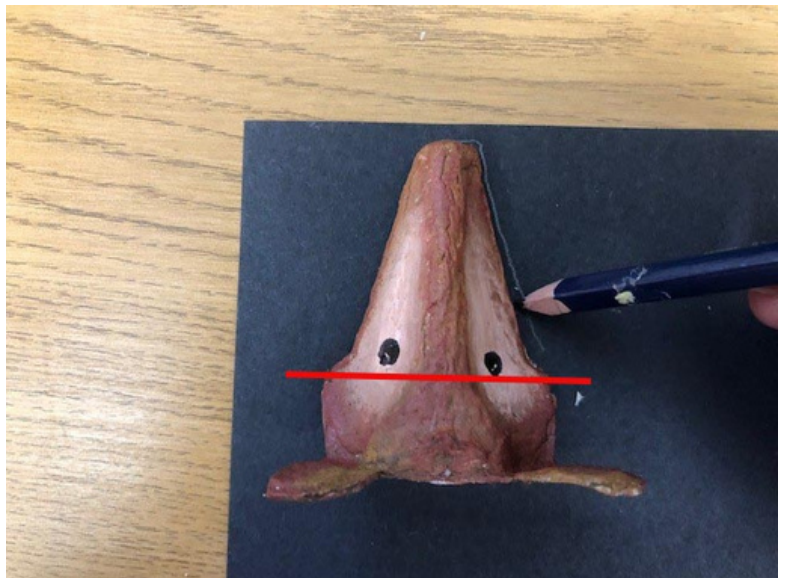
Step 7:

Draw a line around the centre of the head and cut it into two pieces.



Step 8:

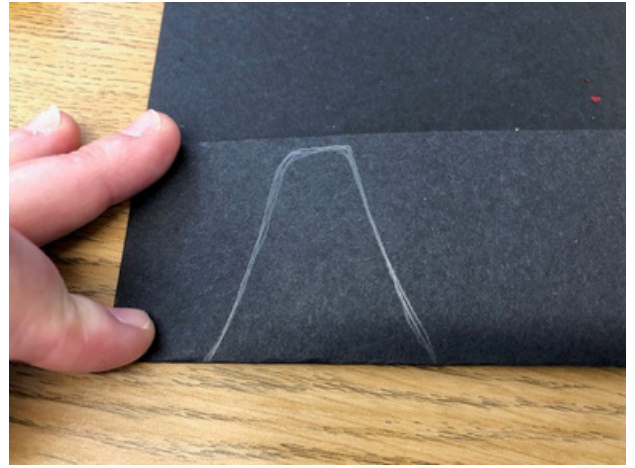
On a piece of coloured card draw around the top of the head stopping at the point marked on the picture.



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Step 9:

Fold your piece of paper up so that the end of lines hit the fold and cut around your shape through both layers. This creates your mouth piece.

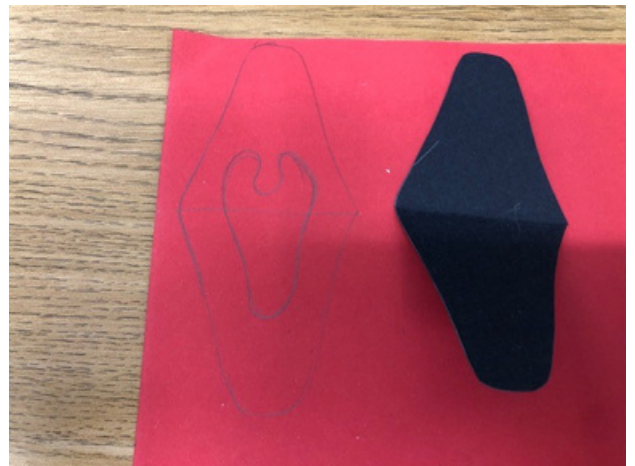


Extra Step:

Open up your mouth piece and draw around it on another coloured piece of card (remember to mark where the fold is). Draw a tongue shape (I've also included some tonsils) within the outline of your mouth.

Cut out.

Glue into place on your mouth piece.



Step 10:

Take one half of your head and cover the edge in glue. Stick to the mouth piece. You may need to give the glue a little time to set before moving on.



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Step 11:

Repeat with the other half.

Test the finger holes, you may need to cut away a little from the bottom jaw to fit your thumb in comfortably. Like in the picture below.



Step 12:

Using a bamboo skewer or sharp pencil pierce a hole on either side of your toilet roll tube.



Step 13:

Thread a short length of string through one of the holes from the outside in. Tie a knot at the end to stop it pulling through. Repeat with the other end of the string.

This loop will form the neck of your puppet so you want it to be quite short, to keep the head close to the body.



Tip:

Although you want the loop to be quite short, start with more string than you think you need and cut it down after the last knot. It will be much easier to tie with more length.

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Step 14:

Pierce a hole in the base of your tail and push through your split pin paper fastener. Push the other end through the hole in the toilet roll tab and flatten out the pins.



Congratulations! You have finished your beautiful puppet!

You could use this design as a template to make all sorts of other animals.

Use your imagination and go wild!

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Tail Template:

