

How to make... a pop-up Thumbelina puppet

Suitable for ages 6 - 11

You will need:

- Access to a printer
- Paper (white and coloured if you have it)
- Coloured card (optional)
- Bamboo skewer or strong straw
- Felt tip pens or colouring pencils
- Glue
- Scissors
- Tissue paper (optional)
- Elastic band

If you enjoyed Yana Penrose's reading of *Thumbelina*, have a go at bringing Thumbelina to life with this enchanting little pop-up puppet.



Instructions

Step 1:

Print out our template and cut out the flower shape. Use this as a stencil on coloured card or paper.

Or

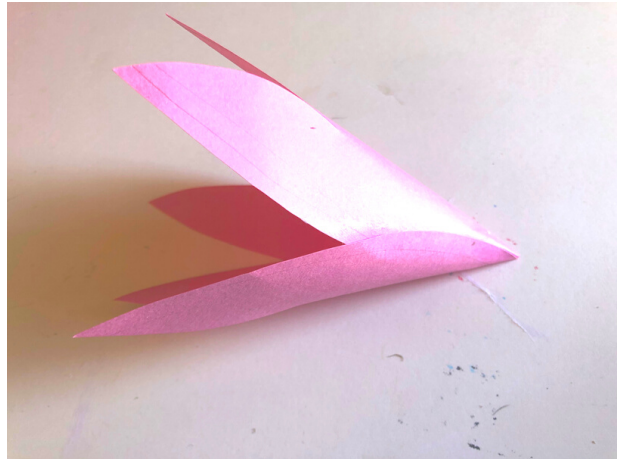
Colour in your flower shape using felt tip pens or colouring pencils. Don't forget to do both sides.



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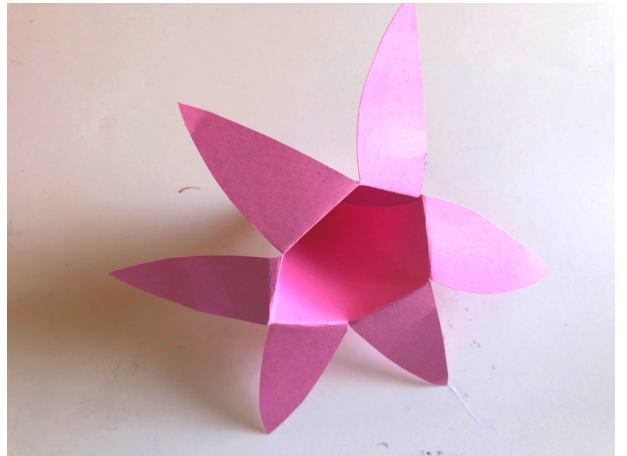
Step 2:

Glue the edges of your flower together.



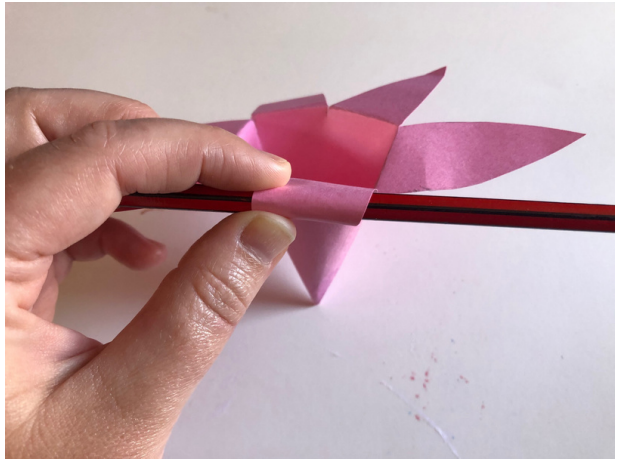
Step 3:

Fold your petals down.



Step 4:

Wrap each petal around a pencil or felt tip pen, hold in place for a few seconds and then release. This will give them a lovely curl.



Step 5:

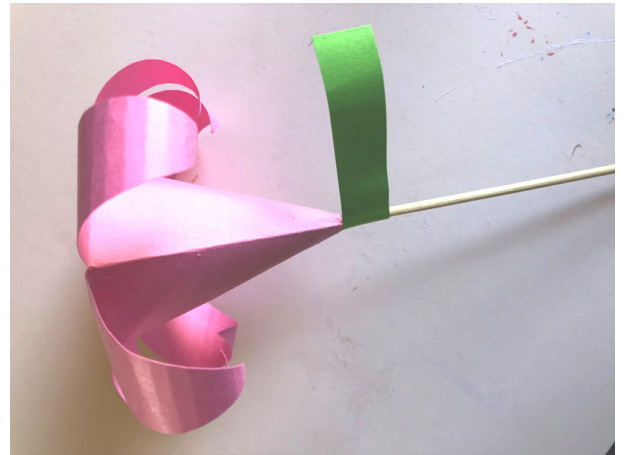
Wrap an elastic band around a bamboo skewer, quite close to the pointed end.



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Step 6:

Insert your skewer into your flower. Cut a thin strip of paper. Cover in glue and wrap around the base of your flower.



Step 7:

Put your flower to one side and go back to the printed template. Choose either a plain Thumbelina or one with the details drawn on and colour in. Don't forget the extra circle for the back of the head. Then cut out.



Step 8:

Concertina fold your Thumbelina up (like when making a paper fan), starting with the tab at the bottom.



Step 9:

Remove your skewer from the inside of your flower. Glue the pointed end onto the back of your Thumbelina's head. Glue the extra circle for the back of the head over the top to sandwich the skewer into place.



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Step 10:

Cut your tissue paper into small squares. Holding diagonally opposite corners of your square, twist the tissue paper up into strings. Glue small balls of tissue paper to the tops.

If you don't have tissue paper, just use strips of paper.



Step 11:

Glue these to the back of the head and push your elastic band up as far as you can.



Step 12:

Push your skewer back into the centre of your flower. Glue the bottom tab of your Thumbelina into place just inside the flower.



Congratulations, you've made a beautiful pop-up Thumbelina puppet!

You may need to train your puppet to fold down correctly, so give it a few tugs up and down to test it out. Change the direction of the folds if you need to and give the wings a gentle fold forward to encourage them to hide away nicely.