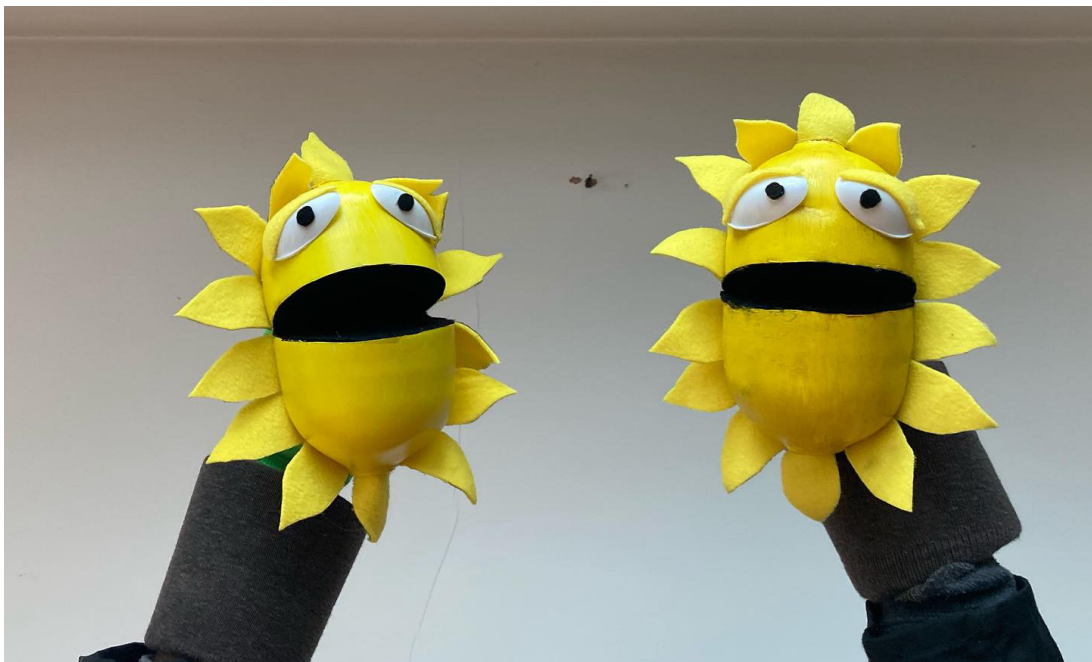


Talking Sunflowers



ages 8 and older with adult supervision

You will need

- Two 2 litre plastic bottles
- 2 Plastic Spoons
- 2 Contrasting coloured socks (green and brown work well)
- Black Fabric or Paper (felt is best)
- Yellow Paint
- Yellow Fabric or Paper (felt is best)
- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Strong Glue (UHU Glue or Glue Gun work best but only use under adult supervision)
- Paintbrush
- Pencil/Marker Pen



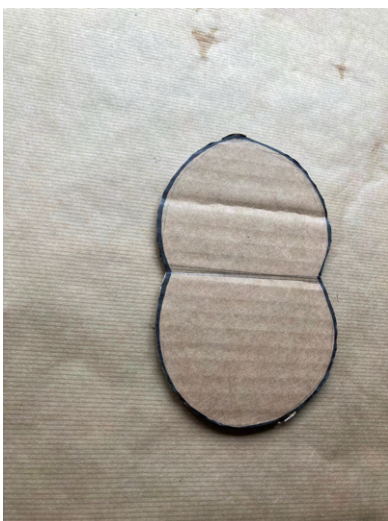
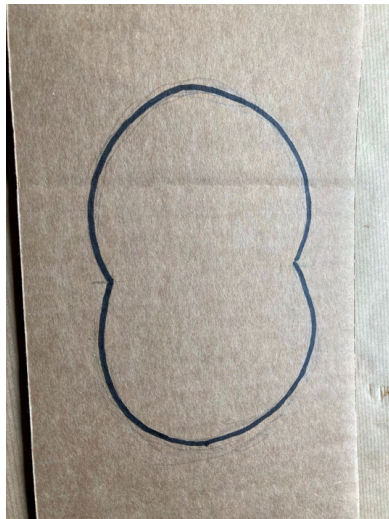
Step One

Firstly, you need to cut off the tops of both of your plastic bottles. These together will form the top part of the head and the lower jaw. After you've cut them you need to cut an arched window towards the back, this is where your hand will enter when operating the puppet. Do this with both of the bottle tops.



Step Two

To make the mouth plate, you will need cardboard. Draw round both of the bottles tops, so you have two overlapping circles. Cut out the mouth plate. With your scissors, score a line accross the middle of the mouth plate to make a hinge.



Step Three

Spread glue over the cardboard mouth plate.
Stick the mouth plate to the black felt and then
neatly cut round the edge.



Step Four

Paint the two bottle tops. I have chosen yellow for a sunflower, but you could go for a different colour if you wanted a different flower. You may find it looks nicer if you base coat the bottle tops white first. Once dry, glue the edges of the yellow tops to the mouth plate - top and bottom.



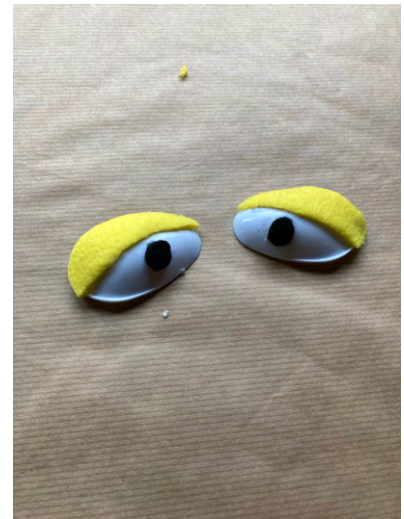
Step Five

Snip off the handles of the plastic spoons. To make an eyelids, spread some glue on the top edge of the spoon. Stick on some yellow fabric (or another colour of your choice) and cut round the edge



Step Six

Cut some round black circles out of the felt and glue them to the eyes for pupils. For the petals you will need some appropriately coloured fabric. To make them, you need to decide on the size and shape, it's your design. You might want to make a template so they are all the same. Cut as many that will fit round the edge of your puppet, how many you need will depend on the size and shape.



Step Seven

Glue the petals around the edge of the puppets head. Next, glue on the eyes, think about their angle and placement, as this will have a huge impact on the character.



Step Eight

Take one of the bottoms of the plastic bottles. Cut off the top and the bottom to make an open ended cylinder not unlike a plant pot. Stretch a brown sock over the plastic.



Step Nine

Stretch the green sock over the top of the brown sock. Insert your hand so it forms a sock puppet shape. Add glue to the top and bottom of the sock 'jaw' (your thumb and top fingers). Grab hold of the inside of your mouth plate with the sock so everything is stuck together. You now have a finished sunflower puppet complete with a stem and plant pot!

