

How to make...a 2D rod puppet

Fungi Friend!



Suitable for ages 5+ with adult supervision

For the puppets, you will need:

- Scrap cardboard - thin but sturdy like that of a cereal box
- Collage materials - multicoloured paper, magazine/newspaper
- Colouring pens or pencils
- A round object - to draw around for the head
- Scissors
- Pritt stick
- A BBQ skewer
- A split pin
- String
- Tape



Let's create a 2D Fungi Friend rod puppet which can walk along the floor!
You may need to ask a grown up to help you with the cutting out.

Step 1:

- Draw around your round object to create a circle onto your scrap cardboard.



Step 2:

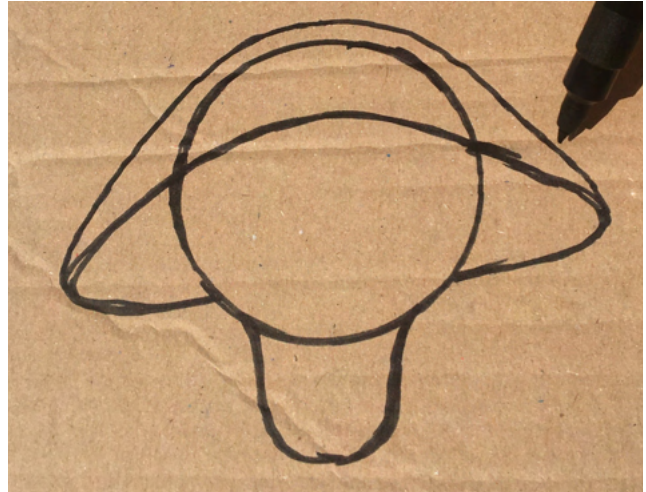
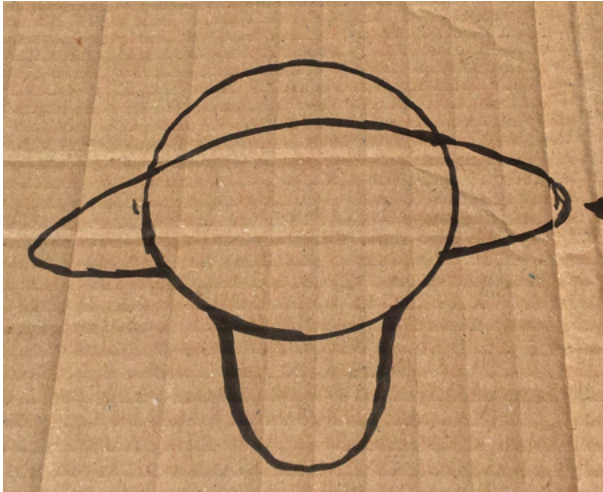
- Then draw a "U" shape onto one side. This tab will be the neck of your puppet, joining with the body.



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Step 3:

- Draw a curved line cross the top half of your circle and loop back to meet the lower part of the circle. This is the brim of your mushroom cap.
- Draw another curved line overtop, joining either side of your brim, to create the top of the mushroom cap.



Step 4:

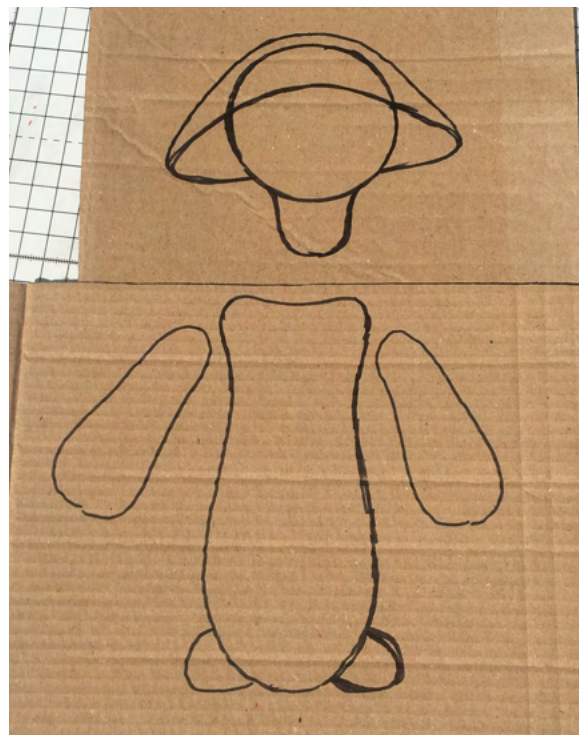
- Draw the top of your body, using the head as a guide, making sure it is wider than the tab.
- Then complete your mushroom's body (see picture to the right).



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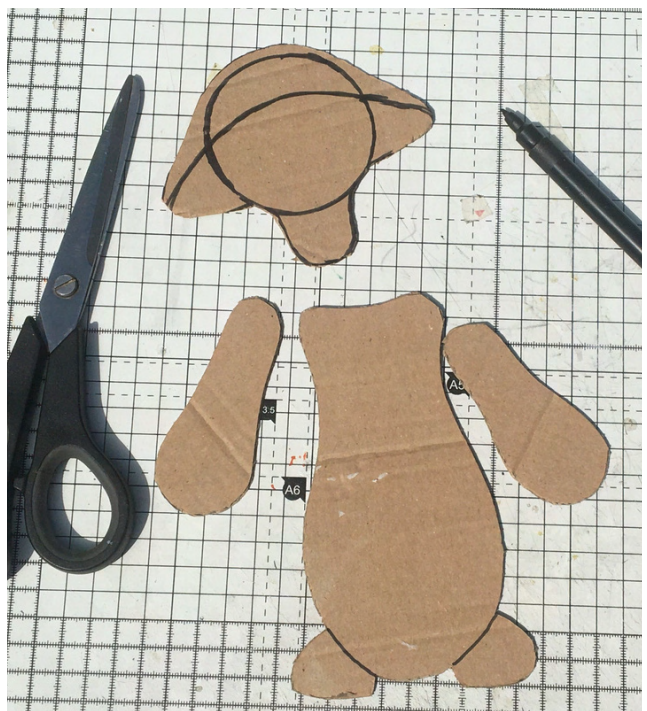
Step 5:

- Next, add the little feet. They can just be little round shapes at either side of the bottom of the mushroom's body. Try and keep them similar in size and in line with each other so the mushroom will be able to walk on them, by rocking side to side.
- Next draw the arms, they'll be joined to the body with string so don't make them too short or thin.



Step 6:

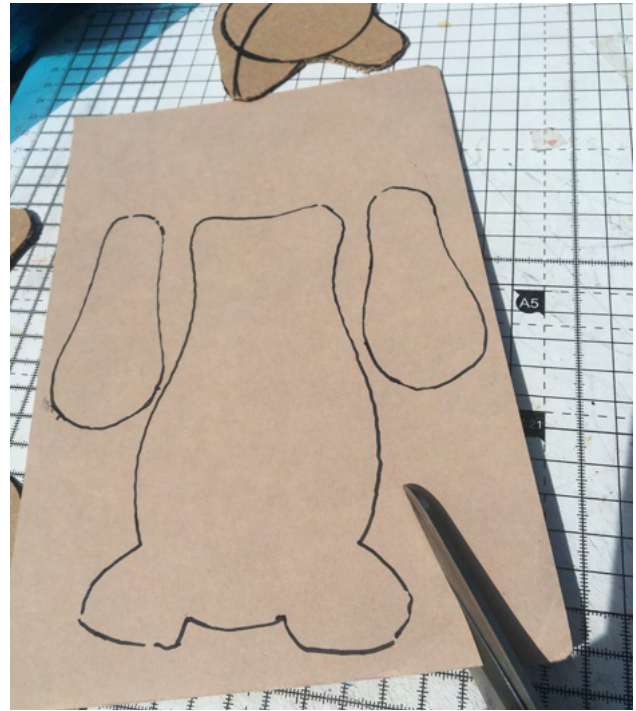
- Cut out all your cardboard pieces carefully - the head, body and arms.
- ***You may need an adult to help you with the scissors or cutting out!**



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Step 7:

- From your collage materials, choose a colour (or different colours) to cover the cardboard pieces. Use the shapes to trace around onto the coloured paper so they match up and then cut them all out.



Step 8:

- Use your glue stick to attach all the cut out pieces onto their original cardboard bases.

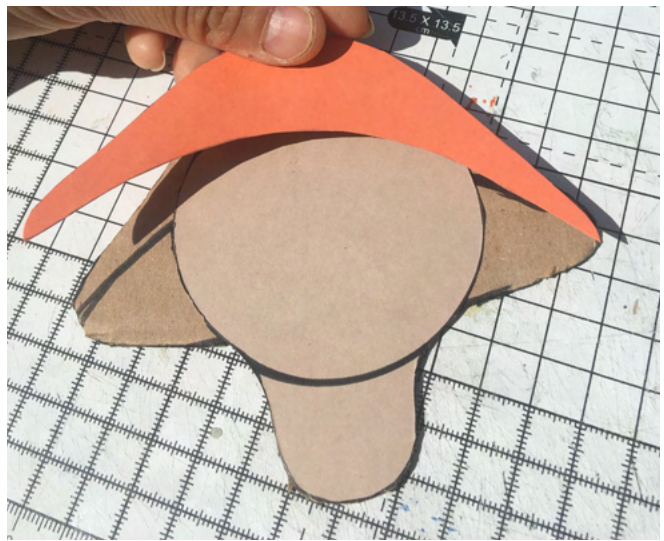
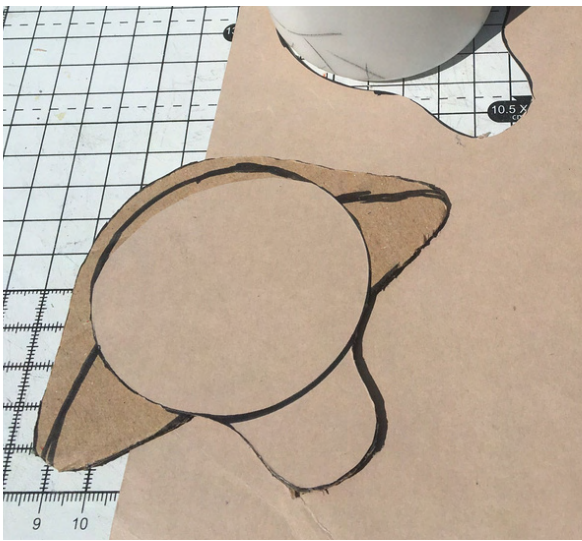


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Step 9:

Let's do the same for the head, though it's a bit trickier!

- Use your round object from the first step to draw a circle onto your coloured paper for the face. Then use your cardboard cut out to trace around the tab so it matches. Cut out and stick onto your cardboard head piece.
- Use another colour paper or patterned paper to create the mushroom's cap. Trace around the top and side of the cardboard mushroom cap onto the paper and join the curved line of the brim. Cut out and glue on!



Step 10:

- Now is the fun part of decorating and customising your mushroom!
- You can use pens, pencils, stickers, more collage materials to add character and charm to your puppet.
- I drew gills underneath my mushroom's cap and gave them big, shining eyes, some blush and a little pink nose.



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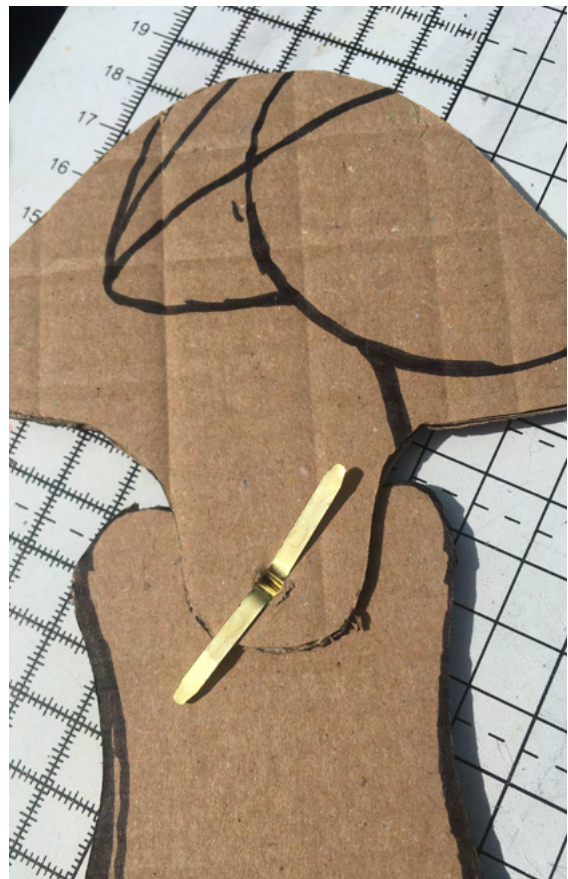
Step 11:

- Next, use your BBQ skewer or another thin, pointy object to poke a hole into the neck tab. Make sure it goes all the way through.
***You will need an adult to help you with this step.**
- Make another hole at the top of your body, in the middle, and these two holes will be joined together with a split pin.



Step 12:

- Add the split pin through both layers, the body in front of the head, and open it out at the back and flatten.



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Step 13:

- Make holes in the same way in the top of the arm and the sides of your body.
- Be careful not to puncture the holes too close to the edges as they might tear easily.



Step 14:

- Thread your string through the holes, joining the arm and body together, and knot securely behind. ***You will need an adult to help you with this fiddly part.**
- Carefully, cut off the excess string with your scissors to leave a neat and well-hidden knot.



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Step 15:

- Lastly, turn your puppet over and tape the BBQ skewer to the back of the head, right down the middle.
- Make sure it's taped on securely and enough of the skewer is attached to the head so it won't fall off!



YOU'RE FINISHED!

Your fantastic Fungi Friend rod puppet is complete! Try getting them to take a little walk by holding the rod upright, resting their feet on the floor and gently rocking them from side to side. With practice, they should be able to walk well, with their arms slightly swinging!

Create multiple fungi puppets with your family and friends, take them outside in a green space and put on a show!

Please do share what you make with us, we would love to see!

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