

# How to make... Ugly Duckling puppets

Suitable for ages 3-6 with some adult help  
Suitable for ages 7-11 working independently

## You will need:

- Paper plates (or thin card and a real plate to draw around)
- Paint, pens, tissue paper or magazine/wrapping paper to add colour
- Scissors
- Glue (PVA or a glue stick)
- Sticky tape
- A stapler
- Lolly sticks or wooden spoons (you could also use old pens or pencils)
- Sequins, feathers, cotton wool (optional)



If you enjoyed Heidi Goldsmith's reading of *The Ugly Duckling*, why not try making your own puppets so you can reenact the story at home? There are lots of water bird puppets you can make using paper plates or thin card. Here are some ideas to get you started.

## Instructions:

### Attaching the rod:

All of these puppets need a rod for the puppeteer to hold. You can use the same method for all your puppets.

#### Step 1:

Fold a paper plate in half. Stick your rod (e.g. lolly stick, wooden spoon), in the middle securely with tape.



#### Step 2:

Fold the plate over and secure the edges with some staples.



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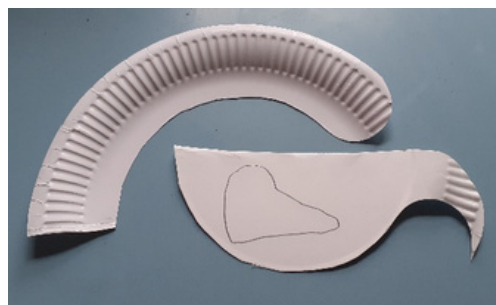
## Making a swan:

### Step 1:

Make the body with one plate as described above.

### Step 2:

Cut a second plate in half. On one half of the plate, cut out a neck (using the edge of the plate), and draw and cut out a beak (using the middle section of the plate).



### Step 3:

Use the other half of the plate to make a wing. Cut out some feather shapes around the edge of the wing.



Stick the beak onto the edge of the neck.

### Step 4:

Stick all the pieces together and decorate your swan. Colour in the beak - we used a black sequin for the eye, but you could draw one.



If you have any, you could also use cotton wool or feathers to make your swan nice and fluffy.

## Making a duck:

### Step 1:

Make the body with one plate as described above.

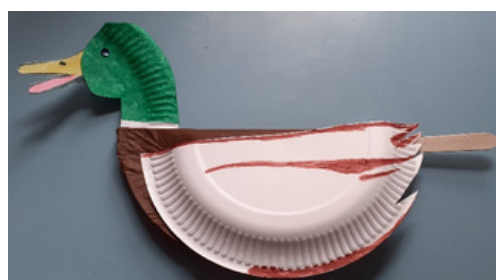
### Step 2:

Cut a second plate in half. On one half of the plate, cut out a neck (using the edge of the plate), and draw and cut out a head and a beak (using the middle section of the plate).



### Step 3:

Use the other half of the plate to make a wing. Cut out some feather shapes around the edge of the wing. Stick your shapes together and use felt pens or tissue paper to add colour.



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## Making a duckling or cygnet (baby swan):

### Step 1:

Make the body with one plate as described above - but before you start, trim the edge of the plate so it is smaller than the other puppets. If you are using card, you could just draw around a smaller plate.



### Step 2:

Cut a second plate in half. On one half of the plate, cut out a neck (using the edge of the plate), and draw and cut out a beak and some legs (using the middle section of the plate).



### Step 3:

Use the other half of the plate to make a wing. Use tissue paper to decorate, but leave some extra around the edge and snip it to make it look fluffier. Colour in your legs and beak.

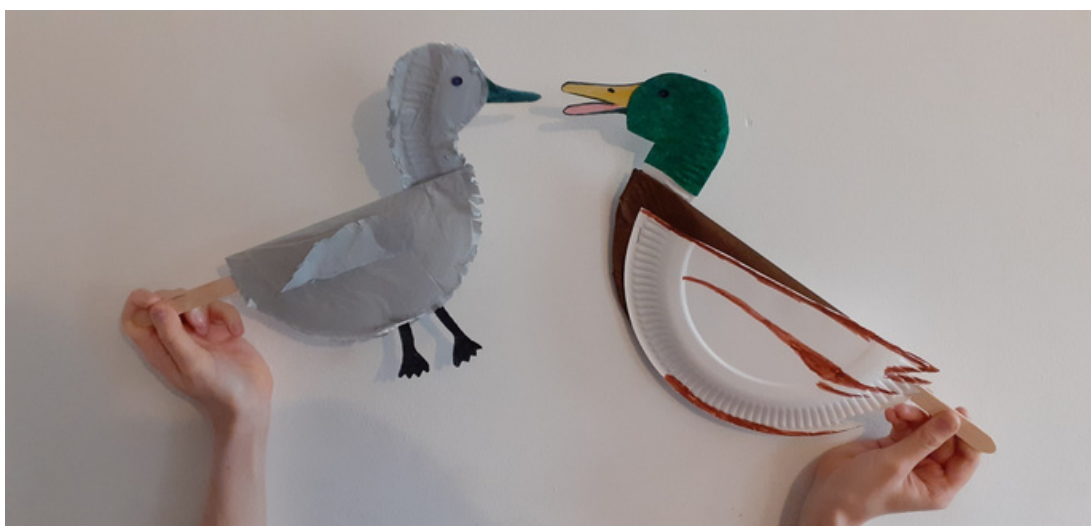


### Step 4:

Cut the pieces out and stick them all together. Complete your decoration. We used a black sequin for an eye but you could draw or stick one on.

## Performing:

If you want to perform with more than one puppet, make sure you decorate both sides so you can flip them over to face different directions. This is important when characters are talking to each other.



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## What next?

### **Learn about different water birds:**

There are many different types of ducks, geese and even swans that all look a bit different to each other. Research the different types and try to recreate some using paper plate puppets. We made a male mallard duck - do male and female birds of the same type look the same or different?

### **Go bird spotting:**

Learn the names for the different water birds there are in your country and what they look like. You could draw pictures with labels for their different characteristics. Next time you go to a park with a pond, or to a wetlands centre, see how many you can spot and name.

### **Baby birds:**

Can you find out the names of different baby water birds? We've already told you two - duckling and cygnet.