

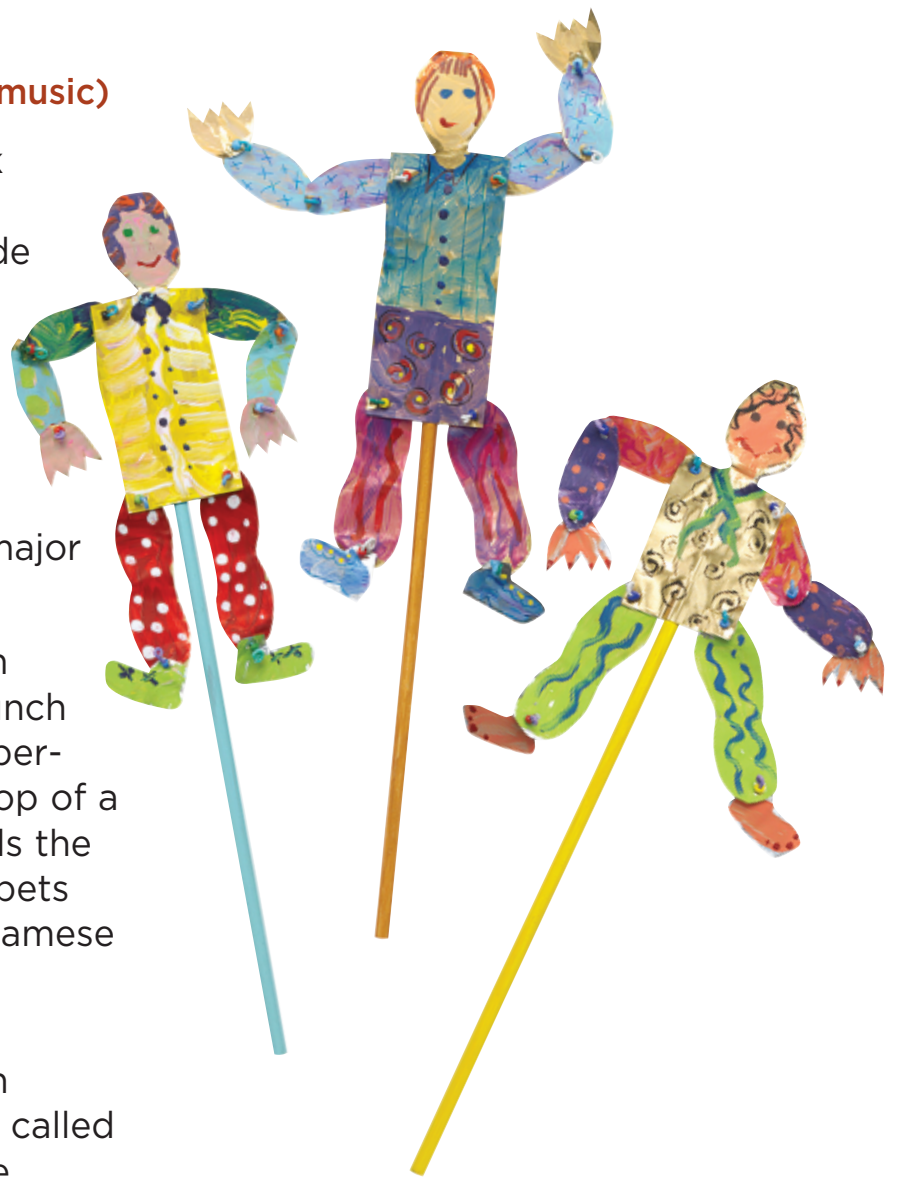
Jive Foil Puppets

(art + theater; art + literature; art + music)

Jointed dancing puppets on a stick originate from the South Pacific Islands. These jive puppets are made out of two-tone, 38-gauge metal. They make a light sound as they jump and jiggle when the stick is moved to make them dance.

Many cultures create puppets for entertainment, and there are four major types of puppets:

1. Those that are manipulated from below. Hand puppets such as Punch and Judy are an example. They perform in a simple theater at the top of a box. The bottom of the box holds the people who manipulate the puppets and talk. Rod puppets and Vietnamese water puppets would be further examples.
2. Those that are manipulated from above, such as marionettes, also called “string puppets.” Marionettes are jointed, usually made of carved wood. Movements for the body parts are manipulated by the puppeteer, who holds a wooden form over the puppet’s head to which is attached wire or string connected to the hands, legs, shoulders, ears and back of the marionette.
3. Those that are presented as being independent of the puppeteer, who is usually not visible and is hidden behind a set or outside of the camera’s view, such as The Muppets®.
4. Bunraku, a traditional form of Japanese puppetry, where large, elaborately costumed figures are handled by three operators, working in



harmony — one holds the figure from behind, the other two manipulate the puppet body from the sides.

This lesson plan creates rod puppets, supported by the puppeteer from below, but jointed like a marionette. They move randomly, as if dancing, their animation enhanced by bright colors and flashing metal.

Grade Levels 5-12

Materials

Two-Tone Tooling Foil

(60504-4050), gold tone, cut to 10" x 12" pieces for 25 per roll

Scratch Sticks (14907-1045), one per student

Opaque E Beads (60726-1000) 16 per puppet

Craft Pliers Set (33064-1069), one plier per student

Twisteez Colored Wire (33407-1050), 1/2 wire per puppet

Silver Plated Copper Wire (60687-1269), pkg of 6 colors

Wooden Dowel Rods (60448-1412) 1/4"x 12"size, one per puppet

Weldbond Adhesive (23819-1105) 8-oz

Blick Craft Paint (00727-), assorted colors

Blick Scholastic Golden Taklon Brush (05858-1006), size 6 round

Blick Metal Punch (60510-1045), may be shared

Mini Wire Cutter (33083-1020), may be shared

Snippy Scissors (57040-2005), pointed, one per student

Blick EZ Grip Knife (57419-2980), one for adult use in preparation

Process

1. Using a Blick EZ Grip Knife cut a piece of foil 10" long, keep the twelve inch width of the foil. The EZ Grip cuts the large piece of foil without hurting the hands. Later in the process the Snippy scissors will cut the more intricate parts of the pattern. Measure and mark a spot at the five inch point on the ten inch side. Repeat on both sides then fold the foil at that point. This folds the 10" x 12" foil in half. Next measure six inches from the side to the center of the fold. Use the knife to cut this piece in half. Now there are two folded pieces of 5" x 6". Each half will make one puppet.
2. Place the pattern (see below) on the foil with the top of the puppet's head on the fold. This connects the front and back of the body. Use a scratch stick to trace the pattern on the fold. Because the foil is folded, each pattern piece will cut two body parts at a time. The scissors are needed to cut all of the shapes. In total each puppet needs one torso with heads folded, four arm sections (two for each arm), and two leg sections. Punch holes with the Blick Metal Punch where there is an X marked. The X is where the joints of the body are connected.
3. Trim ten Twisteez pieces 1-1/4" in length for each puppet, vary the colors. Assemble the arms by using two pieces one for the top and one for bottom of the arm. Line up the holes, the elbow part, put a E Bead on the end of one of the Twisteez pieces and thread the Twisteez through the hole. Put another E Bead on the other side to hold the joint together. Tighten the wire by curling the wire. Make certain the joint moves. Attach the hand and complete the leg sections.

NOTE: The E Beads vary in hole size. If they will not fit on the Twisteez, delete them or use the Metallic wire and beads.
4. Open the torso insert the arms and legs. Join the arms and legs to the body where the holes match up between the front and back.

Process, continued

5. Squeeze a dime size amount of Weldbond onto a scrap piece of paper. Open the bottom of the torso. Roll the top inch of the dowel rod in the glue. Insert the end into the puppet until it reaches the inside of the head area. Turn the dowel a couple of times to make sure the glue is spread through out the puppet along the rod. Set aside until dried.
6. Use Blick Craft Paint to design and decorate puppets. Blick Craft Paint is a matte finish acrylic. It is brightly colored and adheres well to the foil. Paint the stick and decorate it also. Paint one side or both. No fixative is needed.

Options

- Use the same pattern and procedure for paper puppets. Use thread to sew the joints.
- Create a musical and use life size puppets made out of cardboard.
- Make puppet trees, houses, and cars. Do not limit creativity to people and animals.

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National Standards

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes

5-8

Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques, and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas

9-12

Students conceive and create works of visual art that demonstrate an understanding of how the communication of their ideas relates to the media, techniques, and processes they use

Content Standard #2 — Using knowledge of structures and functions

5-8

Students employ organizational structures and analyze what makes them effective or not effective in the communication of ideas

9-12

Students create artworks that use organizational principles and functions to solve specific visual arts problems

Content Standard #4 — Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures

5-8

Students know and compare the characteristics of artworks in various eras and cultures

9-12

Students differentiate among a variety of historical and cultural contexts in terms of characteristics and purposes of works of art

Content Standard #6 — Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines

5-8

Students compare the characteristics of works in two or more art forms that share similar subject matter, historical periods, or cultural context

9-12

Students compare the materials, technologies, media, and processes of the visual arts with those of other arts disciplines as they are used in creation and types of analysis

