

How to make a finger puppet dragonfly

You will need: a cardboard roll, pencil, scissors, paint, paintbrush, scrap of thin card (from a cereal box or similar), masking tape/sticky tape, A6 piece of white paper (if not using masking tape), glue stick, fine nib permanent marker or felt tip pen (black), glitter (optional).

Instructions:



1. Press down the cardboard roll and then cut along the two folds so you have two pieces (as shown, left).
2. With one piece of the cardboard roll, form a tight roll that will be the body of your dragonfly. Use either sticky tape or masking tape to secure the shape.
3. If you use sticky tape, you will need to cover with the A6 piece of paper (a quarter of an A4) using glue and trimming the excess paper with scissors. You need to do this as the paint will not adhere to the sticky tape.
4. Paint the body of the dragonfly. Leave to dry.
5. On the other piece of the cardboard roll, draw and cut out X-shape wings. Paint and add glitter (optional) to the wet paint. Leave to dry.
6. On a scrap piece of thin card, draw and cut out two small circles (eyes). Use the permanent marker or felt tip pen to mark on the pupils.
7. Glue on the wings and the eyes. If you wish, add a little glitter (with glue) to the body of the dragonfly. Leave to dry.
8. Your dragonfly is ready! To use as a finger puppet, insert a finger into the base of the body of the dragonfly.



Fun facts: Long before dinosaurs walked the earth, there were dragonflies in the skies above. They were some of the first winged insects, about 300 million years ago, and some had the same wingspan of an eagle! There are about 36 different species of dragonfly that are found in the UK today. We often see some of them in Shaw House's gardens. Why don't you see if you can spot one or more today either from your window, in your garden or whilst on a walk.