

How to make a finger puppet grey squirrel

You will need: cardboard roll, thin card (from a cereal box or similar), pencil, scissors, paint (grey, or black and white that you can mix to make grey), paintbrush, fine nib permanent marker (black), glue stick, sticky tape.

Instructions:

1. Gently press downwards and inwards one end of the cardboard roll.
2. On the thin card, draw two circles (eyes) and a wavy shape (tail). Cut out.
3. Paint grey the cardboard roll and tail. Leave to dry.
4. Use white paint to add detail to the body of the squirrel (cardboard roll) and the tail. Leave to dry.
5. Draw pupils on the eyes using the permanent marker.
6. Glue the eyes onto the cardboard roll.
7. With the permanent marker, add details to the squirrel's face.
8. Secure the tail to the back of the squirrel's body – you can use glue or sticky tape, or both.
9. Your squirrel is now ready for their adventures! To use as a puppet, insert several fingers into the base of the cardboard roll.

Fun facts: the Museum has several squirrels on display in the special exhibition Cabinets of Curiosity, and the Cloth Hall – both grey and red squirrels. Red squirrels are native to this country, the grey squirrel came over from North America and was released here in the late nineteenth century. It has been extraordinarily successful ever since, but this has had a disastrous impact on the red squirrel who now only lives in small areas of Britain. You can see them on the Isle of Wight!

