

Make a finger puppet parrot



This craft was inspired by the parrot on this cigarette holder in the shape of a pipe.

You will need: cardboard roll, scissors, pencil, thin card (from a cereal box or similar), 1 sheet of coloured thin card or thick paper, felt tip pen (black), paint, paintbrush, glue stick/dots.

Instructions:

1. Cut the top of the cardboard roll so it forms a very shallow V at the front. With the section of cardboard roll cut off, trim to make a beak – the top should be longer than the bottom part of the beak, and curl over it.
2. Paint the cardboard roll and beak. Leave to dry.
3. On the thin card (from a cereal box or similar), draw and cut out two large circles for eye. With the felt tip pen, draw a pupil on each eye.
4. On the coloured card, draw three long thin feather shapes (for the tail) and eight short feather shapes (for the two wings). Cut out.
5. Around the edges of each feather shape, cut lots of shallow cuts.
6. At the top of the three tail feathers, glue them together. Leave to dry.
7. With each set of four wing feathers glue them together at the bottom to form a wing. Leave to dry.
8. Glue on the eyes and beak onto the cardboard roll. Leave to dry.
9. Glue on the tail feathers and wings on the cardboard roll. Leave to dry.
10. Your parrot is now ready to take flight! To use as a puppet, insert several fingers into the base of the cardboard roll.



Fun facts: Parrots are very sociable birds and like to flock together. This also protects them from other more predatory birds. They are known for being very vocal; their screeches, squawks and screams can be heard throughout the forest – most live in tropical areas.

