

Art
activity

1

FINGER PUPPET

Get Artty!

TAKE PART WITH ART

GASS ART
EST.1984

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learning disability

Getting started



Get Arty! offers three fantastic activities created by [AccessArt](https://www.accessart.org.uk). This is activity number 1 – the finger puppet. We hope your pupils enjoy having lots of fun getting creative, collaborating and learning.

We recommend running your Get Arty! assembly before starting the lesson – everything you'll need for this is in your welcome pack and online. Alternatively, the assembly resources and art activity can be used alongside each other during the class.

Learning outcomes and links to the curriculum

The activities we have developed will help your school meet the National Curriculum targets for Art & Design for Key Stage 1 and 2. Get Arty! achieves this in the following ways:

- ✱ Helps children explore new sculptural materials and processes.
- ✱ Enables children to develop their dexterity and fine motor skills.
- ✱ Provides experience in manipulating and transforming materials into artwork.
- ✱ Helps children gain confidence in their ability to express their ideas and make them real, and in being contributors to the world.



Duration of the activity



30 minutes



30 minutes to 1 hour



Modroc Version: 1 to 2 hours (including setting time)

Introduction to lesson

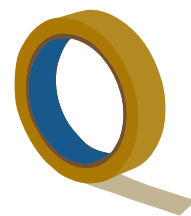
To begin, we suggest reminding children about the Get Arty! assembly, and kicking off with the following statement: **Whoever you are, however you are different, art is for everyone.**

Children can work in pairs and help each other to create their puppet. Ask the children what they would like their finger puppet to look like. This could be themselves, their favourite animal, the child sitting next to them, or that child's favourite animal.

This guidance has been designed for you, the teacher - please use it to help you deliver the lesson.



We've got three great ways for your pupils to make finger puppets, depending on the time you have available and preferred level of difficulty – from a simple print, colour, cut and stick to a full-blown sculptural version.



Finger puppet activity

Here are three great ways to make finger puppets, depending on time available or level of difficulty. Starting with a simple print, colour, cut and stick and moving on to a full blown sculptural version, we hope your pupils inspired to make fantastic puppets and possibly put on a show!



Version

1

KEEP IT SIMPLE!

EASY

These are the simplest finger puppets to make - we've done lots of the work for you but left enough opportunity for children to put their own spin on it.

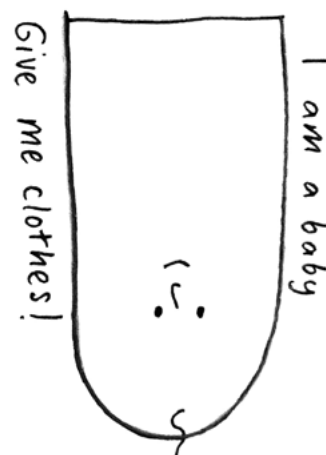
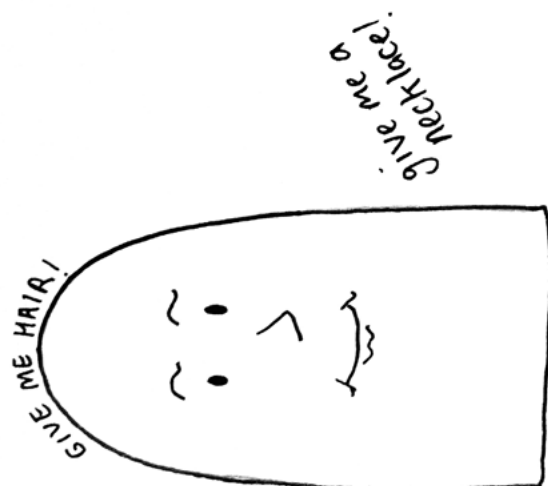
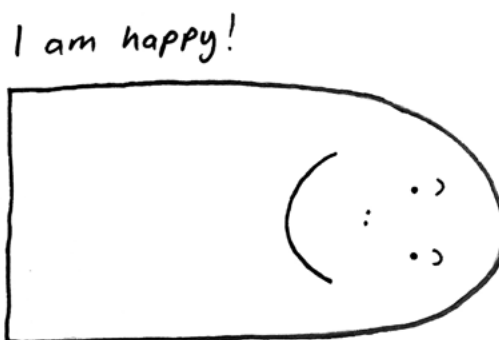
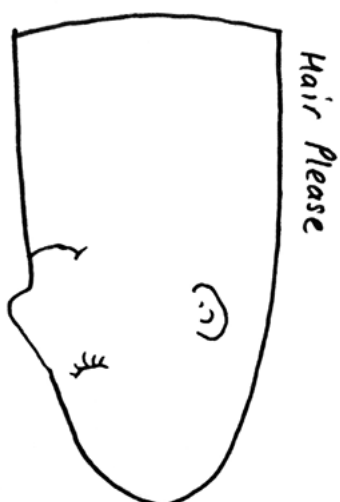
You will need:

- ☐ Printed card versions of the templates.
- ☐ Sellotape
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Pens and pencils

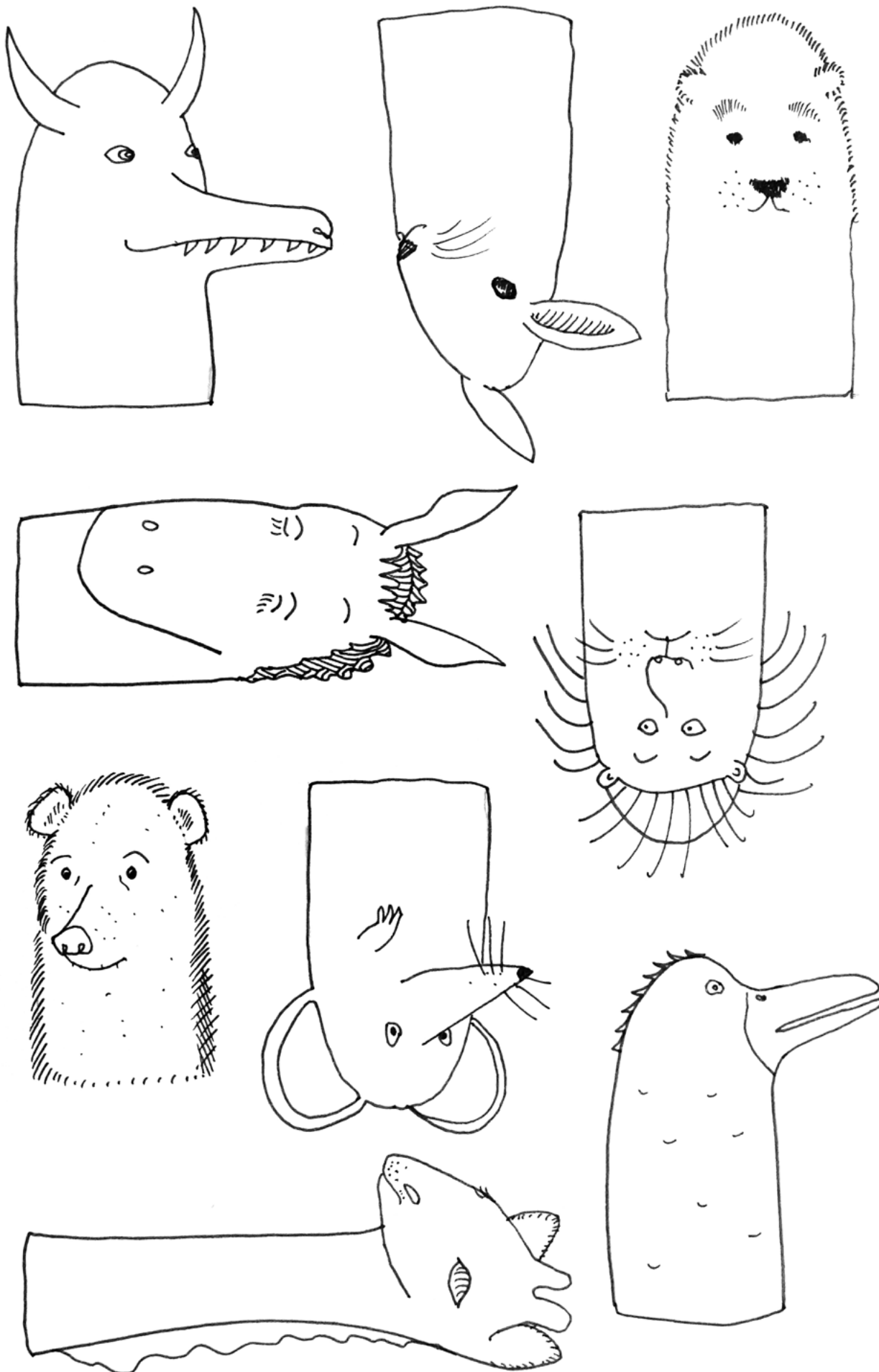
Rabbit finger puppet



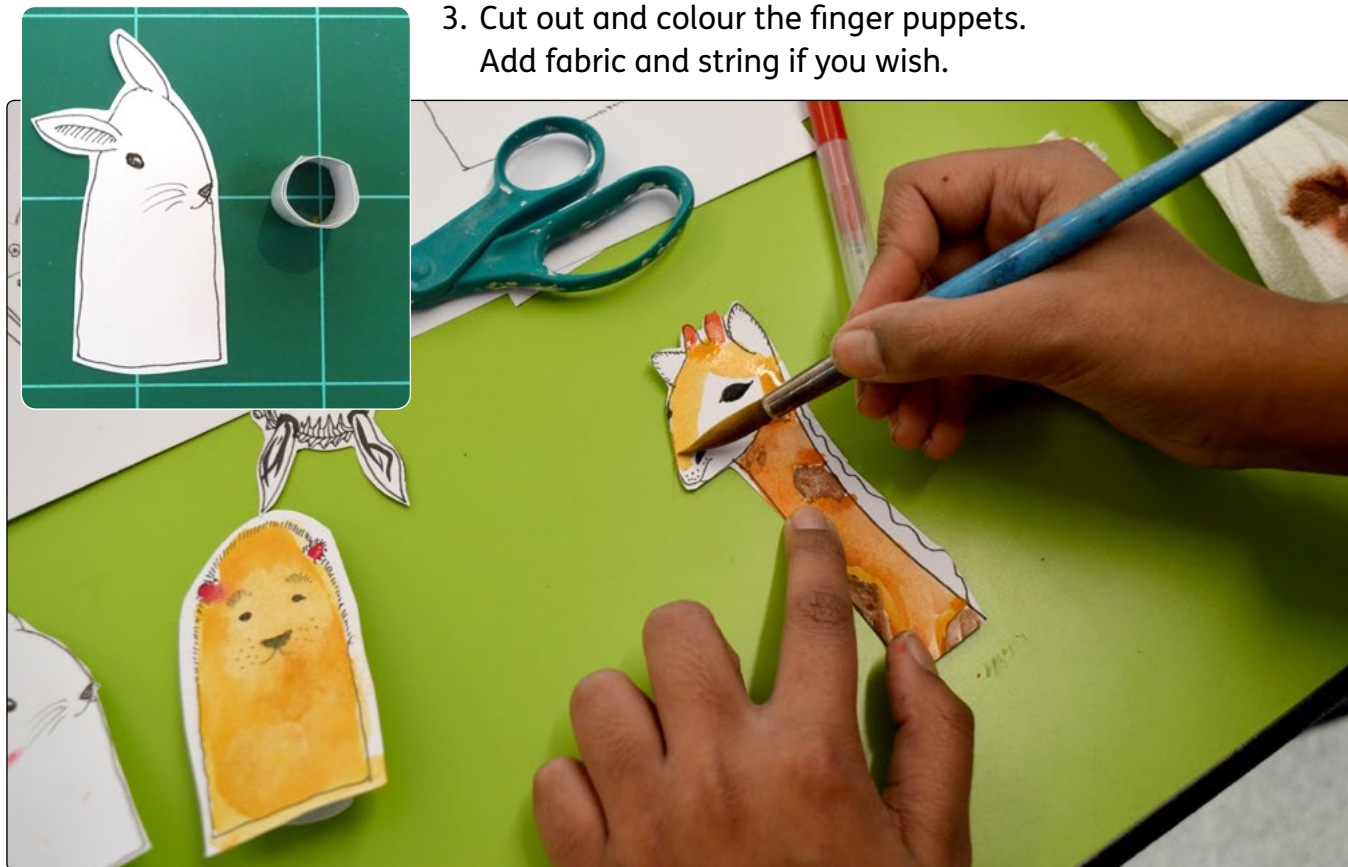
1. Print out these templates.



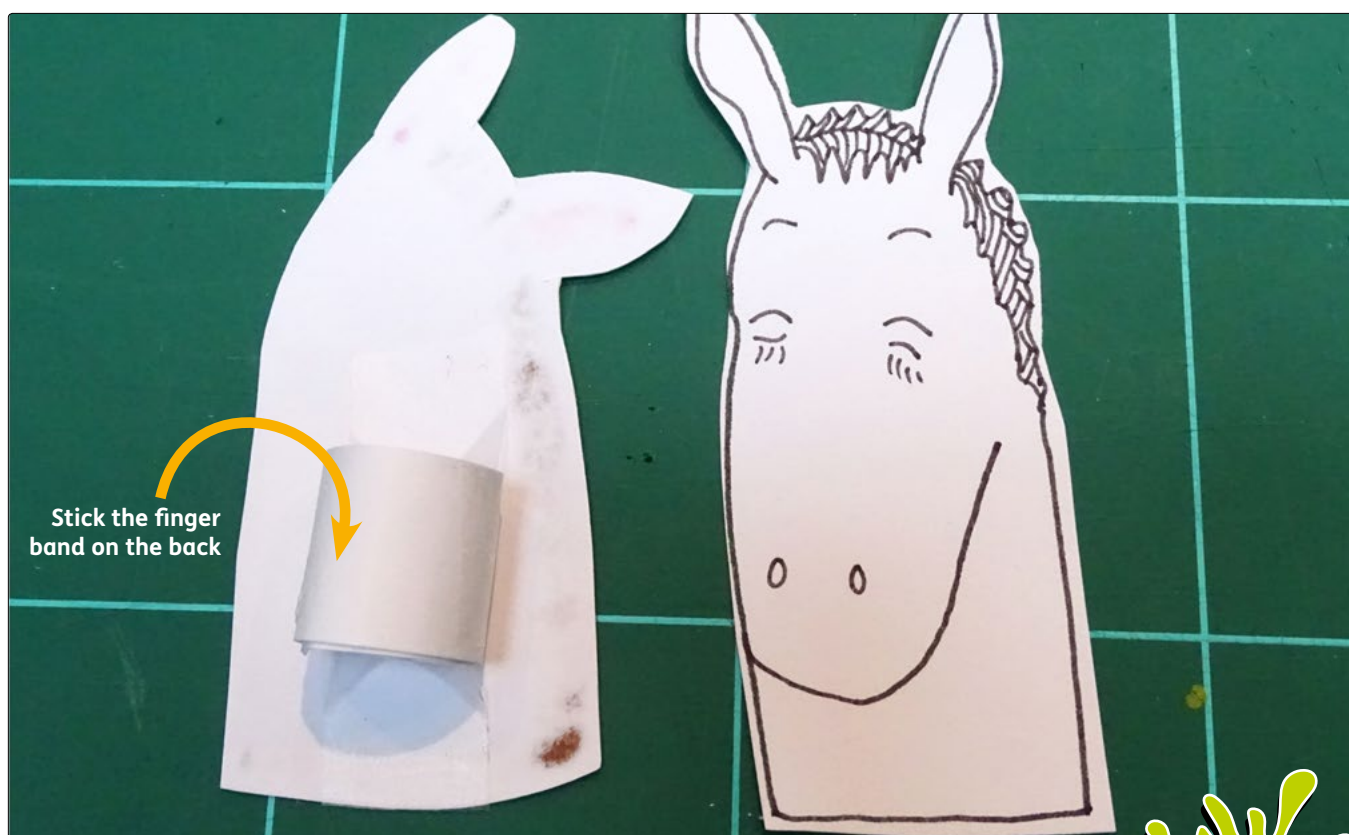
2. Cut strips of card to make the finger bands. Each strip should be 1cm x 6cm. Roll these strips into hoops and secure with tape.



3. Cut out and colour the finger puppets.
Add fabric and string if you wish.



4. Stick the finger bands on the back and you're ready to go!



Stick the finger
band on the back

Activity complete!

EASY

Version **2**

MIX IT UP!

MEDIUM

Crocodile



You will need:

- ☐ Thin coloured card
- ☐ Pens, pencils
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ PVA glue or glue sticks
- ☐ Sellotape
- ☐ Scraps of fabric and wool

In this version children can really begin to experiment by creating their own characters and using different materials and textures.

1. Begin by cutting a thin strip of card (approximately 1cm x 6cm) to make the band which goes around the finger. Curl it into a circle and secure with tape.



Making the finger band

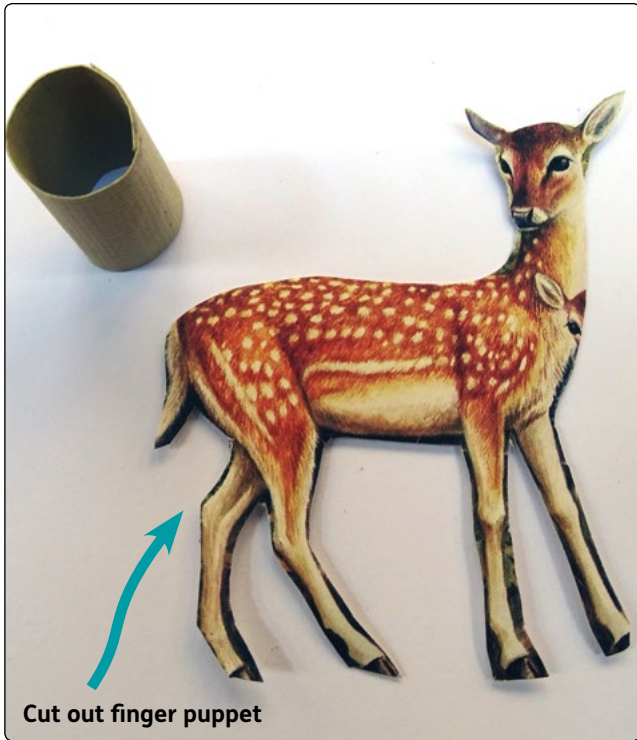
2. Next, cut another shape out of paper (this should be slightly larger than the child's finger). This is the basis of the finger puppet, so the children will need to think carefully about what they want it to be. Will it be upright, like a person? Or have a large tall neck like a giraffe? Or might it have a big mouth like a crocodile?

Cut a second shape to form the puppet itself

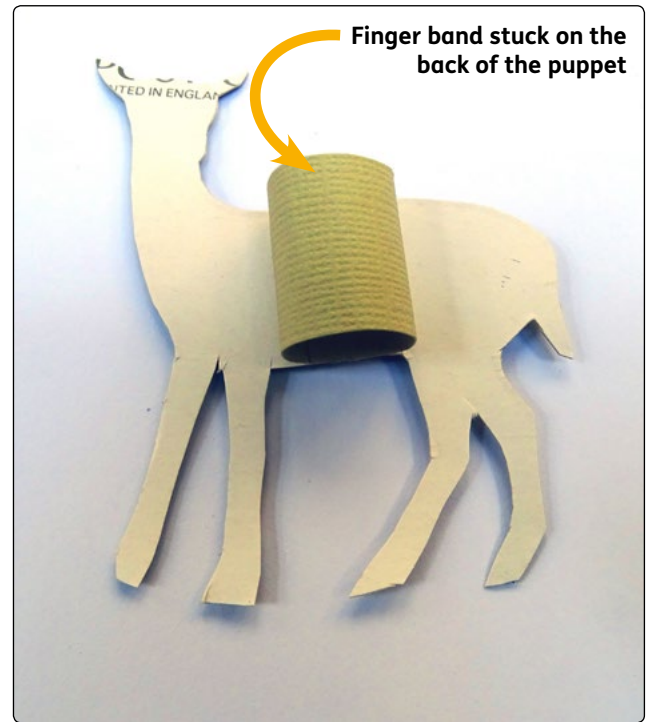




3. Stick the puppet to the finger band, and encourage the children to decorate it.



4. If a child doesn't want to draw a puppet, they could look for animals and people to cut out of magazines.



Caveman, deer and crocodile!



Activity complete!



Version **3**
MODROC TIME!

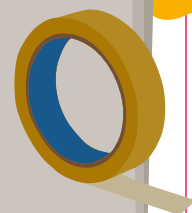
HARD



Modroc finger puppet

You will need:

- ☐ Modroc
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Egg boxes
- ☐ Cling Film
- ☐ PVA Glue
- ☐ Sellotape
- ☐ Fabric and wool scraps
- ☐ Water based paint
- ☐ Access to water
- ☐ Small pots and cartoons to soak modroc.

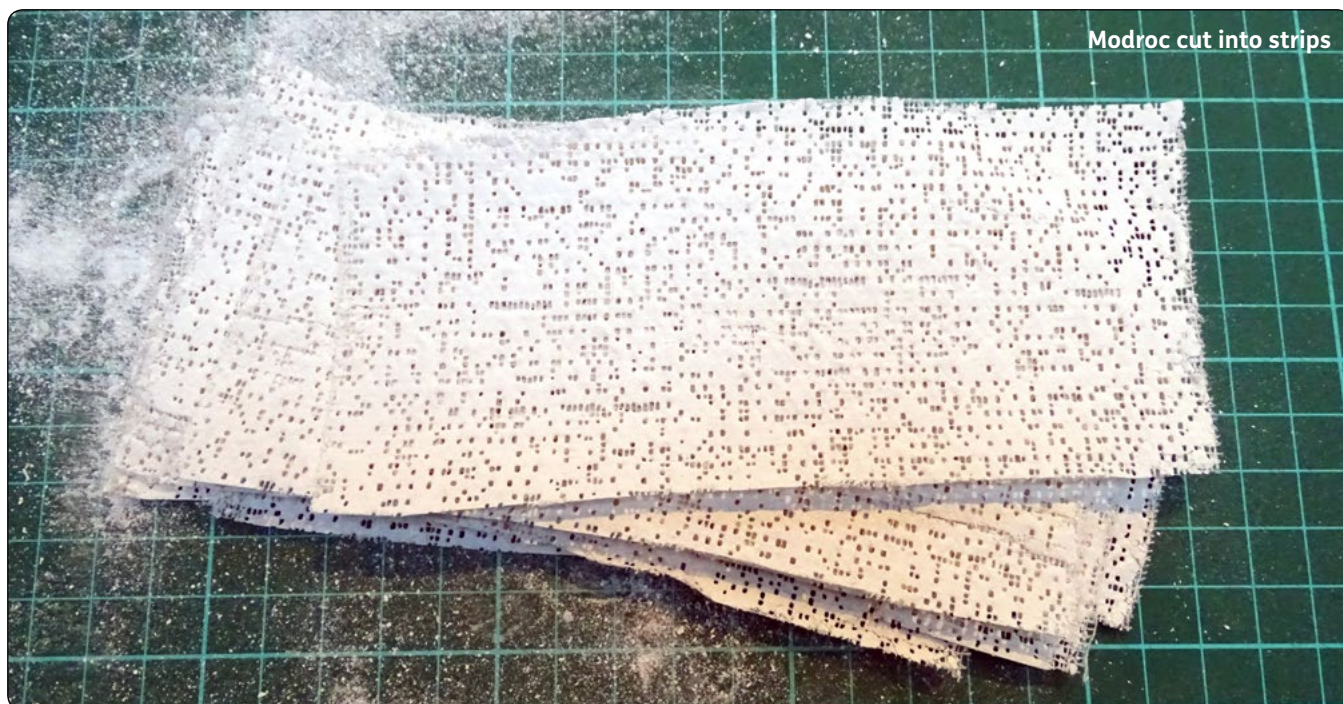


If you have more time available, why not try out this fun activity with your pupils? Sculptural finger puppets are great fun to make – they provide children with an opportunity to get to grips with sculptural techniques and create fantastic puppets. Allow at least 2 hours for this activity.

1. Start by cutting up the modroc into strips which are about 8cm wide. Make sure the modroc is kept dry. [Find tips on working with modroc here.](#)



Modroc cut into strips



2. To begin, the children will need an egg box, as the upright sections of the box will be used as moulds around which to make the finger puppets.



Egg box with upright sections

3. Wrap the upright sections in cling film, and secure with a piece of tape. If you have a large class of young children, you might want to do this preparation in advance. The cling film makes it easier to remove the finished finger puppet from the cardboard egg box.



Clingfilm wrapped round upright sections

4. Dip a piece of modroc into clean water. Squeeze the modroc to remove some of the water, and then wrap the modroc around the upright section of the egg box. Try to keep the modroc even, and remember to cover the top too. Aim to use two or three layers of modroc over the whole upright section.



Modelling modroc around the upright sections

5. Now the children can start to add more modroc, making the shapes needed to give the finger puppet character. They can cut the modroc into smaller pieces whilst it is still dry to help make ears and noses etc.

Use small pieces of modroc like tape to help attach elements. Smooth the modroc together using fingers - this will help make the finished puppet really strong.



Painting the modroc

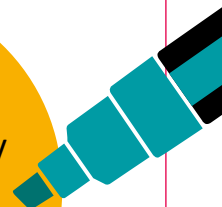
6. Allow the modroc to set (30 minutes). The finger puppet can then be painted with water based paints – more detail can be added with materials and PVA glue.



Puppet taken off the mould

7. Once the whole thing is dry, carefully remove from the egg box. Pull out any cling film which has stayed inside the puppet.
8. If the finger puppet is a little large for the child's finger, you can add a little bit of fabric or sponge inside to help it fit.
9. Enjoy!

Once the puppets are complete, why not think about organising a puppet show?



Dog



Lady



Bird



Horse



Activity complete!



Extension activity

Ask the children to look at all the finger puppets they created, and ask them the following:

- ✱ What is different about the puppets you've created?
- ✱ Which do you like the best and why?

Access more resources at www.mencap.org.uk/getarty

About AccessArt

This Get Arty! activity was developed by our partner AccessArt.

AccessArt aims to inspire and enable high quality visual arts teaching and learning through an evolving collection of unique teaching and learning resources.

- ✱ If you are a teacher or educator, you'll find their collection of resources will help you plan art lessons and provide ideas, inspiration and guidance.
- ✱ If you're an artist working in education, a facilitator or a museum and gallery education officer, you'll find the resources will help inspire and develop your practice.
- ✱ And if you are a creative practitioner, we're sure the ideas will help inspire your own practice.

AccessArt resources are based upon over 20 years of educational practice and we believe by sharing them we can all work together to inspire the next generation of creative individuals.

Find more resources to help explore creativity in the classroom at www.accessart.org.uk



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