

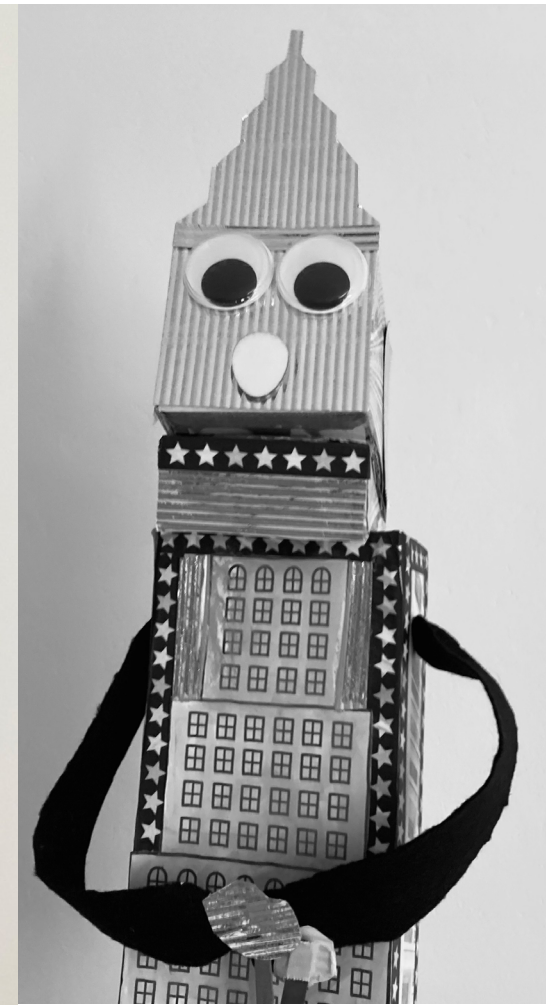
# BUILD A PUPPET

Imagine a world where buildings could talk!

Use this resource to create a walking, talking building puppet inspired by all things architectural and the built environment around us.

## What you'll need:

- Cardboard recycling - small to medium box / boxes, sheets of card
- Old magazines, decorative / patterned paper / coloured card
- / print outs of buildings you like to decorate your puppet
- Pea sticks or lolly sticks
- Fabric / ribbon scraps
- Crafty bits and bobs like buttons / pom poms / pipe cleaners etc.
- Coloured pencils / felt tips
- Scissors
- Masking tape
- Glue stick
- Stapler (optional)



# EXPLORE

This is an architecture model-making activity. Explore some ideas for making your building puppet.

## Ideas

Before we start making our puppets we need to think about what kind of building your puppet is going to be. Here are some questions to think about:

What kind of building do you think would make a good puppet? Will it be based on a real or imaginary building? Will it be a very old building like a castle, church or a famous monument? Or could it be a house, a modern shiny building or even a skyscraper? What kind of shape will it be? Could you imagine it as a talking puppet? How would it talk?

You could create your own building design from your imagination or you could search online for an image of a building that you are interested in or like the look of. Take a look at some of the examples below, some of these buildings already have a face...!



Top row l-r: Pyramids of Giza, Egypt, Petronas Towers, Malaysia, Guggenheim New York, USA, RIBA London, UK, Caernarfon Castle, Wales, Fushimi Inari Temple, Japan

Bottom row l-r: Sydney Opera House, Australia, various houses & buildings

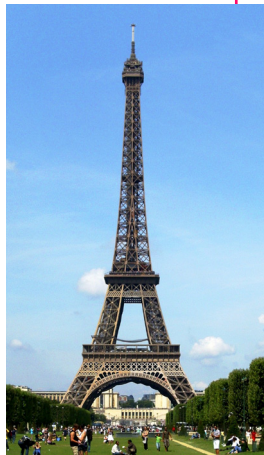
# EXPLORE

Take a look at the examples below - can you see the links between the puppets and the buildings that inspired them? Have a go at turning the buildings in the boxes below into some ideas for a puppet.

When you have completed the activity below, use the space on the next page to draw some ideas for your design.



Elizabeth Tower (Big Ben), London



Eiffel Tower, Paris



Sultan Ahmed Mosque (Blue Mosque), Istanbul

# EXPLORE

Use the space below to draw ideas for your building puppet design. How will you divide the building into your puppet's features? Will it have eyes, a mouth, a nose, any hair, arms, legs, a body? Could you incorporate any architectural features into your puppet? For example windows for eyes, a roof for hair or a hat or perhaps a door for a mouth? There's no right or wrong way to do it, it's completely up to you!





# MAKE - A PUPPET WITH MOVING MOUTH & ARMS

MAKE LEVEL: ADVANCED OR WITH GROWN UP HELP



1



2



3



4



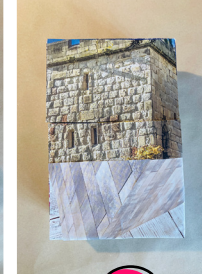
5



6



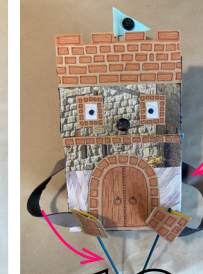
7



8



9



10

Gather together your materials.

For a moving mouth puppet you will need one main box that has similar proportions to your design - for example; long for a skyscraper, squareish for a house. If you don't have a big enough box, you could always use 2 different boxes.

Use masking tape to close up the ends of your box (pic 2).

Cut your box into 2 sections (pic 3). This is where the mouth is, so think about where you want the mouth to be. Will it be in the middle? Near the top? It's up to you!

Next cut two half oval shapes out of your box (pic 3). This is where your hand will go in at the back of your puppet to move the mouth.

Next measure, cut out and attach 2 pieces of scrap card from the under and above the oval holes (yellow lines pic 4). This will be the inside of the mouth (see also pic 7).

Cut out a strip (approx 4 cm thick) of scrap card. The length of the strip should be a bit wider than your box.

Insert it into the top section of the box through the oval hole (see pic 5). Form an arch shape with the strip, attached at either end with tape. It needs to be big enough to fit your 4 fingers into, so you can move the puppets mouth up and down.

A snug (ish) fit will work well. Your thumb will go in the bottom section of the box.

Test is out - does it work? Does it need to be tighter or more secure? Add more tape if so.

Attach the 2 sections of the box together at the back using masking tape (pics 6 & 7) to create a hinge to open and close the mouth.

Now you have created your basic box puppet you can decorate it to look like your building puppet design, using whatever you think looks good!

You could try sticking on images from old magazines, architectural images printed out from the internet (pic 8), decorative and crafty bits and bobs (pic 9), the choice is yours!

To finish off your puppet you will need to add fabric arms attached to sticks so you can move your puppets arms around.

Cut 2 strips of scrap fabric or ribbon (about 30 cm long and approx 2cm wide), attach one end of each strip to either side of the box (pic 10).

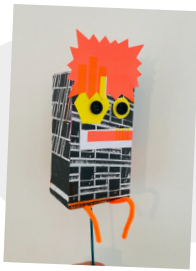
At the other end of the fabric make and create some card 'hands', staple these to the end of the fabric strips.

Attach a stick to either hand (pic 10) using tape or by folding the card hand around the stick. You could use sticks you have found, pea sticks or lolly sticks.

Now you can bring your puppet to life! Insert your hand at the back - 4 fingers in the top section, thumb in the bottom section. Using your other hand grab both sticks and move the hands around.

Can you move the mouth and the hands at the same time?!

Will your puppet have a name, a funny voice or a silly personality? Do they dance or sing? This is your chance to make up a character for your creation and perform for your friends and family!



# MAKE - A SIMPLE BOX PUPPET ON A STICK



1



2



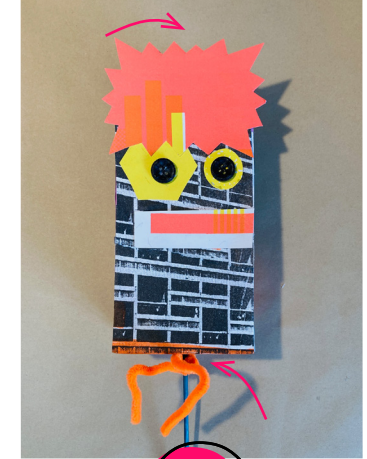
3



4



5



6

Gather together your materials.

For a simple box puppet you will need one main box that has similar proportions to your design - for example; long for a skyscraper, squareish for a house (pic 1).

Use masking tape to close up the ends of your box.

Now you have your basic shape you can decorate it to look like your building puppet design, using whatever you think looks good!

You could try sticking on images from old magazines, architectural images printed out from the internet (pic 2), decorative and crafty bits and bobs (pic 5), the choice is yours!

Next we are going to add a stick to bring your puppet to life!

Ask a grown up to help you with this bit - use a sharp pencil or biro pen to create holes at the top and bottom of your puppet (pic 6).

Insert a pea stick through the holes. Use tape to attach the stick at either end, with only a little bit showing at the top and most of the stick showing at the bottom to hold on to.

Attach some legs using pipe cleaners wrapped around the stick at the bottom (pic 6), card would work here too. Add arms or any other features you think would bring your puppet to life!

Will your puppet have a name, a funny voice or a silly personality? Do they dance or sing? This is your chance to make up a character for your creation.

Holding the stick you are now ready to perform!

## EXPLORE

Go explore other links and resources.

RIBApix <https://www.architecture.com/image-library/>

## SHARE

Share with the hashtag **#ArchitectureAtHome**

Twitter @RIBALearning

Facebook @RIBAarchitecture

Instagram @riba

Written & designed by Katie Kennedy

