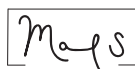


# HANDPUPPETS



In this project we will be making hand puppets from paper bags. We will create characters, sculpt three-dimensional forms, paint and mix colors, add recycled embellishments and develop stories and scenes.



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## TIPS

### Papier-Mâché:

Use warm water when you make the papier mâché (or Amaco wheat paste) for your students to use. If you don't have Amaco wheat paste, you can make it on the stove using flour and water, but it is essential that you bring the mixture to a boil to activate the starch. Add some salt as a preservative.

### Workspace:

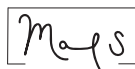
Make sure you work on a piece of painter's plastic! It will save time with clean-up and will ensure that the puppets don't stick to whatever surface they are drying on.

## MATERIALS

- plain paper
- pencil
- coloring supplies
- paper sandwich bag
- brown paper
- chipboard
- masking tape
- scissors
- painters plastic
- wheat paste
- tempera paint
- paint brushes in various sizes
- palette
- white glue
- embellishments \*recycling, felt, gems, beads, knick-knacks
- camera, video camera or phone camera

### Recording:

Encourage your students to film each other activating their puppets, have them think about moving the camera slowly when they film.



# QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION

What can you do with your hand?

## RESOURCES

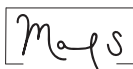
\*Google these artists to share their with your students

### **Paul Klee Hand Puppets:**

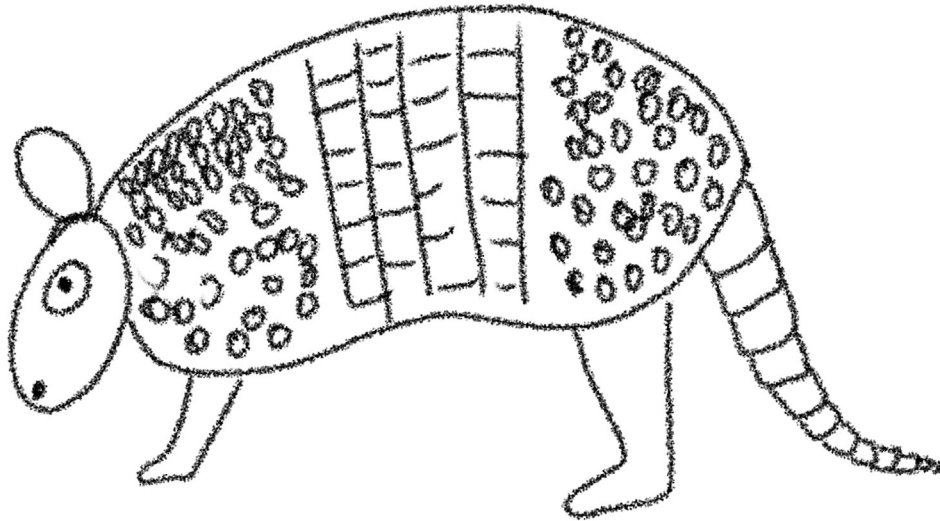
Swiss-German artist Paul Klee, who is know for his paintings, made beautifully abstracted, playful puppets for his son using recycled objects, among other sculpted and painted materials.

### **Hands in Art:**

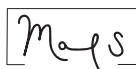
Hands have been a part of art since the beginning of time. Cave paintings of stenciled hands, made by spitting or blowing pigment, can be seen in caves in the **Maros-Pangkep Karst** in Indonesia or in the **El Castillo** cave in Spain.



# WARM UP



Look at photographs of animals that live in your surrounding area. Practice sketching these animals. Pay extra attention to body parts such as tails, ears, scales, spikes, antenna, eyes, etc. We will use these ideas later as we create our hand puppets. If there is time, sketch a hybrid animal using body parts from different animals.



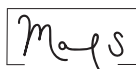
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1



Start by opening the paper bag. Put your hand into the bag and squeeze the bag together. Now, open and close your hand to squish part of the paper into a mouth shape. Hold this mouth shape in place with masking tape. Use a LOT of tape.

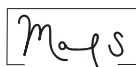


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2



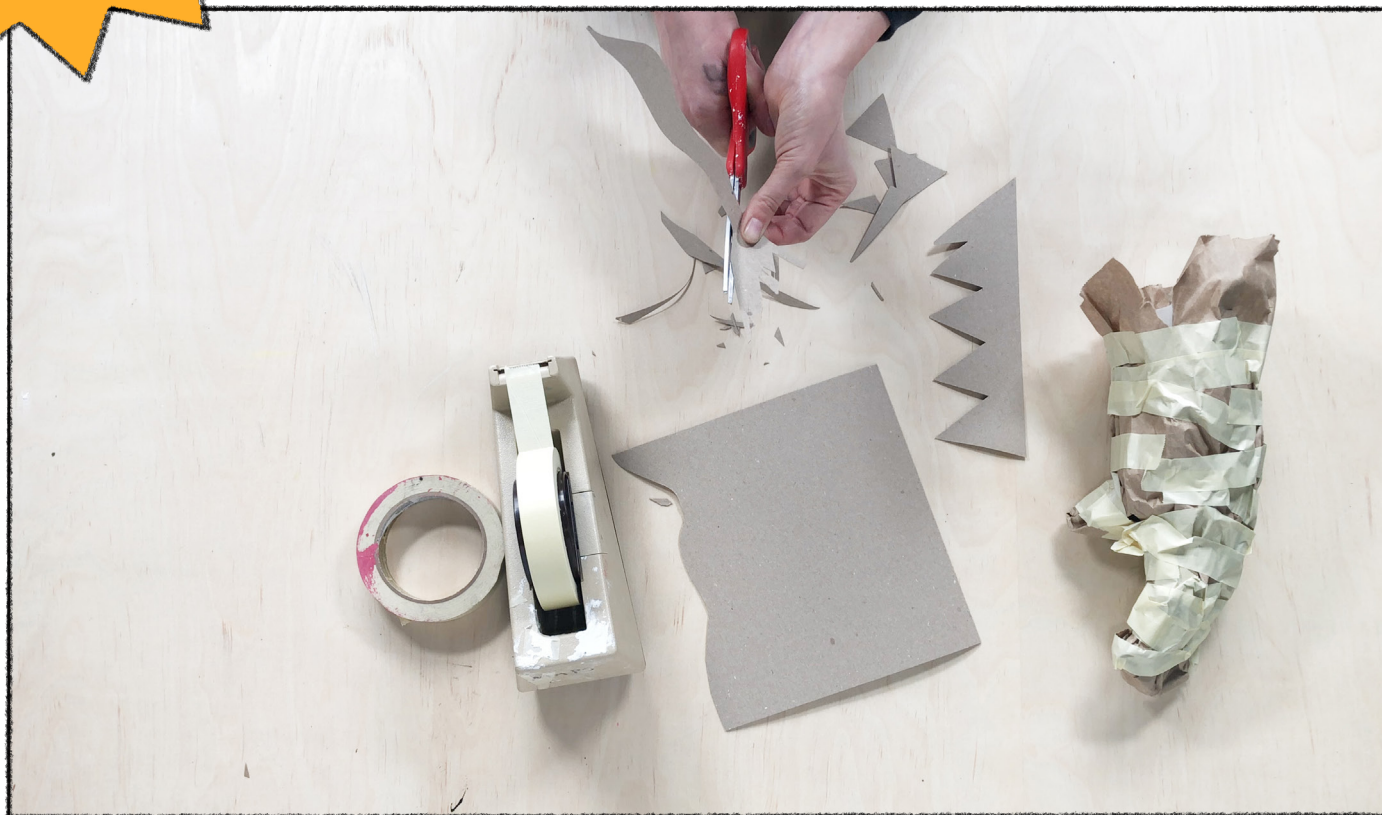
Once the mouth is taped so that it opens and closes, while also holding its form, stuff the paper bag with plastic. This will help hold the shape of the puppet's body as you build. Keep on taping. Tape the entire bag up. Make it a mummy out of masking tape.



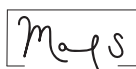
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3

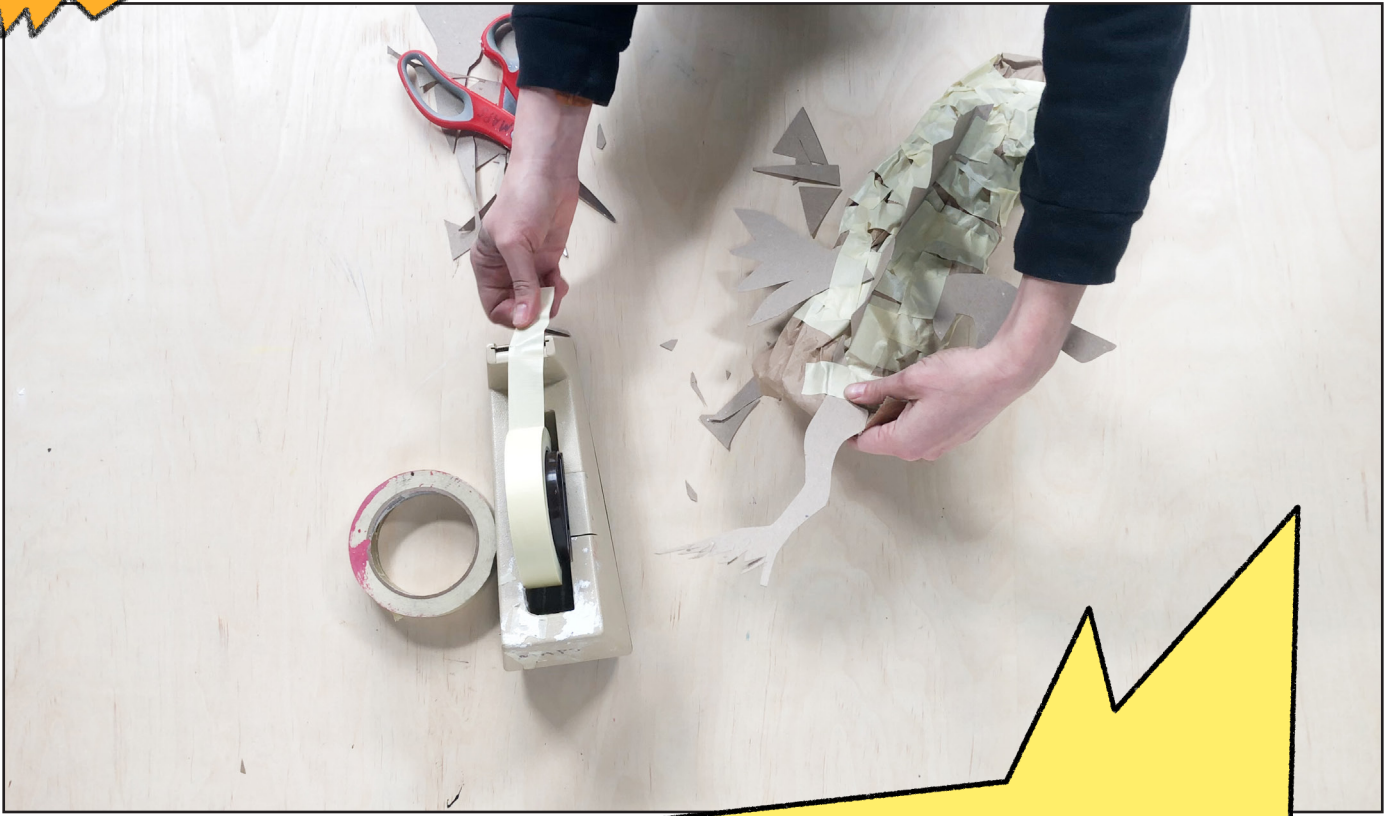


Use the chipboard to cut body parts for your puppet such as tails, wings, antenna, ears, spikes, horns, arms, legs, etc.

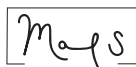


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4



Attach these body parts to your puppet using masking tape.



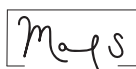
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4.1



To attach body parts that need to stick up, like spikes, you will need to cut tags into the body parts. Clip a few small cuts into the chipboard at the place where the body part will attach to the body. Then fold the tags, alternating right, left, right left.



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5



Prepare your work station with painters plastic.  
Mix up the papier-mâché.



Add a goop of glue to the mixture to make it  
extra strong.



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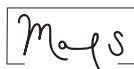
6



Get a big piece of brown paper and crumple it up.



Go to the sink and fully soak the paper. Make sure to wring it out fully before bringing it back to your workspace. Wetting the paper will make it more pliable.



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Make sure the plastic is still firmly stuffed inside your puppet. Now it's time to papier-mâché your entire puppet! Cover the wet, brown paper in a thin layer of papier-mâché. Then rip the paper into the sizes you need as you cover the entire puppet body. You will use bigger pieces of paper for the body and smaller pieces for around the face and ears.

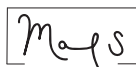
\*Make sure not to cover the opening where you put your hand in!



8



Once you've covered up the whole puppet, you can use extra pieces of the papier-mâché'd paper to make more body parts. You can crumple up a piece into a ball to make a nose or eyebrows. You can make rings to use as scales. This goopy paper can be stuck directly onto the puppet; it will dry firmly attached.



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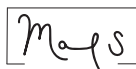
Dry the puppets in a very warm, open area like on top of a radiator, out in the sun, or on tables. Don't put the wet puppets in a closet or somewhere dark and damp because they will mold.



10



Now it's time to paint! Make sure you have at minimum the primary colors and something to mix your paint on. See how many different types of colors you can make. Cover the entire puppet with a first coat of paint.



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Once the first coat is dry you can go back and add details. You can add dots, stripes, wiggly lines, dashes, hearts or triangles - whatever you want!





It's time to add embellishments! Look around - what could you use? Find some interesting recycled materials like bottle caps, old glue tops, or paper clips. You could use yarn or string; twigs or leaves; felt or fabric; gems or pompoms. Use whatever you can find and incorporate this into your puppet.

\*It's important to remember that, when you're gluing things onto your puppet, you should make sure to use a BIG goop of glue because you really want these embellishments to stick on tight.



\*\*If it is available and a grown-up is willing to help, a hot glue gun will come in handy for this stage, although it is not necessary.



14

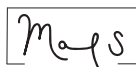


Play with your puppet.

-How does it move?

-Where does it like to explore?

Have a friend or teacher film your puppet popping up throughout your environment.

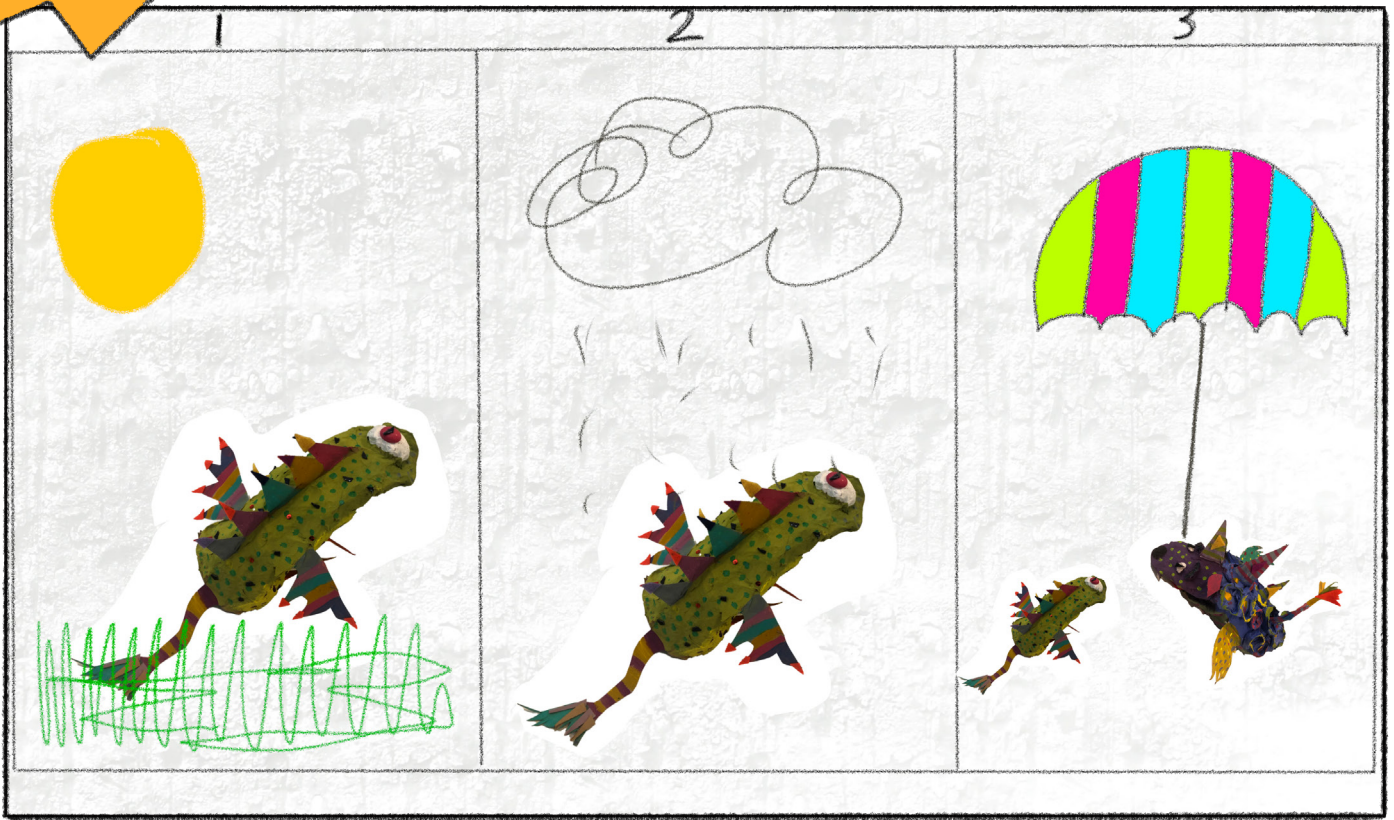


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1	2	3

Using a storyboard, work with a friend to come up with a scene that features your puppets.





When you've come up with your story, find an interesting place to perform. This could be in your classroom, the hallway, the gymnasium or outside on the playground. Find somewhere with a compelling background to stage your story.



Rehearse a few times and then get a friend or a grown-up to take a video of you performing your story.