

Monster Marionette

MATERIALS

FOR STUDENT: (one per student unless otherwise noted)

- FloraCraft® Make It: Fun® Foam: Rectangular pieces (arms & legs) cut from large Foam Block: Four 1" x 3" x 1" thick, Four 1" x 2 1/2" x 1" thick (See "FOR TEACHER") Egg (body) 2 13/16" x 3 13/16" Balls (head and feet) two 2 1/2" diameter Ball (hands) 2" diameter
- Jumbo (1" x 8") craft sticks, two, any color
- Paper clips, large (1 3/4") nineteen
- Jump rings, large (9mm) nine
- Sewing pins, black heads, two (nostrils)
- Cord, 2mm x 4 yds. (Model used nylon twine, size 18)
- Pencil
- Washable fine tip markers: Black, green, yellow, and red
- Ruler
- Plastic serrated knife
- Scissors
- Pliers, small needle-nosed (one per two students with teacher supervision)

- Paintbrush, medium size
- Paint apron
- Thick white tacky glue
- Paper plates, two
- Small plastic cup (to hold parts)
- Paper towel
- Plastic zip-sealed bag, large (to hold after making)

FOR TEACHER:

- FloraCraft® Make It: Fun® Foam, Block, 1" x 12" x 36" (can enough pieces for 18 students per block)
- Cardstock paper (for face and claws)
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Serrated knife
- Paper cutter
- Scissors
- Cutting mat or stack of newspapers
- Acrylic paint: Hauser Light Green and Hauser Medium Green (or choice of colors)
- Paintbrush, medium size



- Water bucket
- Paper towels
- Old newspapers or plastic tablecloth (optional)
- Plastic-lined garbage can
- Wet wipes
- Drying area
- Glue gun (for teacher only)

ART

GRADE LEVEL
FOURTH – FIFTH

COMPLETION TIME

- 55 minute session (2 hours minimum drying time)
- 55 minute session

OBJECTIVES

Students:

- Learn the basics of making marionettes
- See a real example of balance, controlled by where the strings are placed
- See a real example of movement

STANDARDS

The student:

- Creates artworks by applying media, techniques, and processes to formulate and express his or her own ideas and conceptual understandings
- Experiences the role of the artist... and should be engaged in well-rounded studio art experiences
- Uses the vocabulary of the visual arts to express his or her observations... showing movement in works of art

TEACHER PREPARATION

Note: Read through all the instructions first and check out the TIPS! Have a glue gun plugged in and ready to use (ideally set on low temperature) but out of student reach. This can give you immediate adhesion when you're in a hurry to help students. It is also recommended that you make a sample first, before preparing the materials for any others, since knowing how the parts fit, might affect how you prepare the rest of them.

[1] Open the packages of foam balls and eggs. Use a serrated knife to cut in half one 2 1/2" ball (for feet) and one 2" ball (for hands) for each student.

[2] To cut the horizontal foam block, use a ruler and pencil to measure and mark half way, making two 12" x 18" pieces. On a cutting mat or stack of newspapers, use a serrated knife against the edge of a ruler to cut the foam block with several passes of the knife. Leaving the two blocks in horizontal position, measure and mark every 1" on both blocks and draw 12" long vertical lines. (Wait to cut.)

With one block, measure and mark every 3" down and draw horizontal lines, so that there are a total of 76 rectangles that are 1" x 3" (legs). With the other block, measure and mark every 2 1/2" down and draw horizontal lines so that there are a total of 76 rectangles (with an extra 2" at the bottom of each strip). Use the serrated knife and ruler to cut 1" wide strips first and then cut into the correct lengths, on the pencil lines.

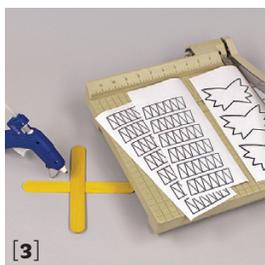
[3] Print the Monster Face and Claws patterns onto the white cardstock, one of each piece per student. Cut them apart on the paper cutter. For the crossbar, overlap one large craft stick over the other and glue at the center. Be sure the cross bar is exactly straight (with 90 degree angles) and then use it as a pattern to glue the rest, one per student.

[4] Measure and cut 4 yds. of cord. Wrap it repeatedly around your hand and then remove the loops as a group. Prepare and set aside for each student, a plate with: Craft stick crossbar, cord, four markers, scissors, ruler, face and claw patterns, pliers and cup with paper clips and jump rings inside.

Then, prepare for each student, a second plate with foam pieces: Four 3" long (legs), four 2 1/2" long (arms), two 2 1/2" half balls (feet), two 2" half balls (hands), one whole 2 1/2" ball (head) and one whole egg (body). Also, include a pencil, plastic serrated knife, paintbrush and paper towel. Have the paint and bucket of water ready to use.

LESSON INTRODUCTION

- Explain a little history on marionettes as art pieces that provide entertainment. Discuss how the Principles of Arrangement include balance and movement. Show how your model is an example of both. Discuss the mechanics of movement, pointing out that there are lots of more complex ways of assembling marionettes, but that this is a basic way of stringing one. If possible, give students the ability to paint with any color and decorate their Monsters in any way they like.



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INSTRUCTIONS

[1] Show the students your model and explain that making marionettes is a very old art, one that shows actual balance and real movement! Distribute the plates with the foam on them (and save the other plate for the second session).

Ask the students to write their names on their plates in pencil. Demonstrate how to use the plastic knife to saw and cut the pointed edges/corners off of one long vertical cube. After trimming off the four long corners, press the foam onto the table and roll to compress and create a rounded shape like a cylinder. Then, press the ends on the table and roll to compress and round. Have the students do that with all eight of their long cubes.

To make three toes on each of the hands and feet, place four half balls on the table with the flat sides down. Demonstrate how to cut two 1/2" long triangles out of the edge of one half ball, 1" apart. Then, press with your fingers to compress and round the toes. Also, roll the half ball on the table to round the edge. Have the students make the toes on their four half balls.

To make a slit for the claw in each toe, demonstrate and have the students use the tip of their plastic knife to make a 1/2" long horizontal slit in the end of each toe, about 1/8" from the bottom.

To connect the hands and feet with legs and arms, match up two of the longer cylinders with the larger half balls; and two of the shorter cylinders with the smaller half balls. Point out that there will still be four cylinders left that should be set on their plate. Demonstrate and have the students use the tips of their knives to hollow out an area to one side of the center of their rounded foot, just large enough for the leg to fit down into it.

Show them how to gently twist, to make the foam fit. Separate them for now. Repeat with other leg and both arms.



[2] Have students put on their aprons and roll up their sleeves, explaining that acrylic paint won't wash out of clothes. Show them your model saying that they may use the two shades of green any way they wish. There are two links and a hand or foot to each arm and leg, so they can decide how they want to paint those, the egg body and foam ball head. Pour

the lighter color paint on their plates first, so that they can paint all the light colors first.

Have them wipe their brushes on the paper towels. Then pour the darker color paint and have the students "stir" the paint with their brush to mix in the lighter color on the brush (so that they don't have to wash out their brushes.)

As students finish, have them put their brushes into the bucket of water until after class when they can be washed out. Ask them to put their plates, pencil and plastic knife in the drying area.



NEXT SESSION

[3] Distribute the second plates. Have the students draw their monster face in pencil, color with marker and cut out. Also, have them color their claws and cut apart the triangles.



[4] Distribute the first plates with the painted foam. Have the students insert the triangular claws into the slits in the toes, remove, then apply glue, and re-insert.

Have the students look at a paperclip, noticing that one end has two loops. Demonstrate and have the students insert the double-loop end into the end of one leg until only 1/2" of the single loop end shows. Have them do the same thing with one more leg and two arms, and then, set those aside because they will have feet and hands attached later. Then, students can do both ends of the four remaining limbs, the top and bottom of the foam ball head and top (narrow end) of the egg body. Also, on the egg body, they need to insert paper clips on both sides at the top (for arms) and two of them about 1" apart at bottom center (for legs).

Have the students glue and connect their legs and feet, and then their arms and hands in the same way.

[5] Have students insert two pins into the nose area to hold the face onto the foam ball, calling attention to the paper clips being at the top and bottom.

Have the students lay out all the parts in

order on the table. Demonstrate how to use the small pliers to twist sideways to open (not pull apart) the jump rings to attach the head to the body through their paper clips. Have the students connect all the parts with jump rings, paying attention to the arms and legs going in the right places and the right directions.



[6] Explain to the students that each time they cut the nylon cord, they need to tie off each end with a knot to prevent fraying. Have the students cut an 18" length (tie off ends) and tie one end diagonally around the craft stick crossbar and tightly double knot underneath. Then, they can tie and double knot the other end to the paper clip in the top of the monster's head. This is the one cord that won't need to be adjusted.

Have them cut two 28" lengths of cord and tie one end of one around the hand wrist and the other end at the outside edge of a crossbar. Repeat with the other cord, wrist and opposite side of crossbar. Before knotting, have students hold up the monster to see if the arm length is correct. They can tighten or loosen as needed and suggest that they leave the tails long at the crossbar, in case they want to adjust them. Have the students cut two 30" lengths of cord and tie one end of one to the knee jump ring and the other end further

in on the same crossbar as the hand. Repeat with the other cord tied to the knee and position onto the other side of the crossbar. As with the arms, before knotting, have them hold up the monster to see if the tied leg length is correct. Again, remind students not to trim tails so that they can be adjusted.



INSTRUCTIONS

[7] Have the students use a pencil to write their name on the bottom of the crossbar. Let them practice walking with their monster, moving the crossbar up and down on the right and left to raise and lower the arms and legs.



MODIFICATIONS

To simplify project:

- Have the students work with partners to help each other.
- After the students have painted and the legs and arms have dried, you can insert the paper clips for them.

To expand project:

- The students can research different styles of crossbars and cord points on the marionette to create different motions.
- Add additional body features and details, such as scales, or feathers. Make interchangeable masks that can be replaced by simply removing the nostril pins.

For multiple ages:

- Younger and older students can work side-by-side, with the older students cutting and doing more of the difficult construction and the younger child painting.
- Older students can create more complex creatures or people.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS

- After students have made one marionette, they understand the process and can make other monsters with longer or shorter limbs, more or fewer limbs, larger or smaller heads and bodies, etc. They can make other animals and even people marionettes, using felt and fabric scraps to make clothing.
- Invite the students to create a puppet theater. As a language arts project, write a short play to perform in the theater.
- Create one giant marionette for the classroom using a thicker sheet of foam, larger foam balls and eggs and wood dowels for the crossbar on top. (Students can stand on a ladder or dangle them from a stage to operate.)



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TIPS

- If the triangular claws won't fit in the toes, use the plastic knife to make the slits slightly longer.
- When inserting a paper clip, if it will only go in just so far, carefully press it on the table to push it until 1/2" of the single loop end shows.
- If the students don't want their strings to show on the monster's wrists, they can use their pencils to gently press them down into the crease between the hand and the arm.
- Have extras of everything.
- The intention is to teach students the basics of marionette making. The more you can give them to make their monsters unusual and unique the more creativity you'll be encouraging.

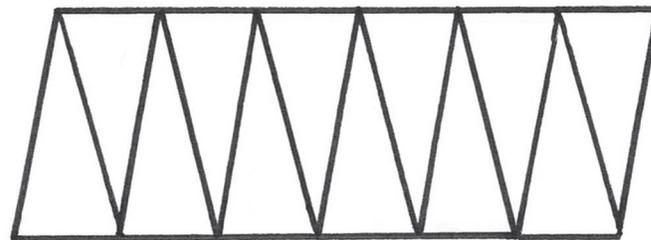
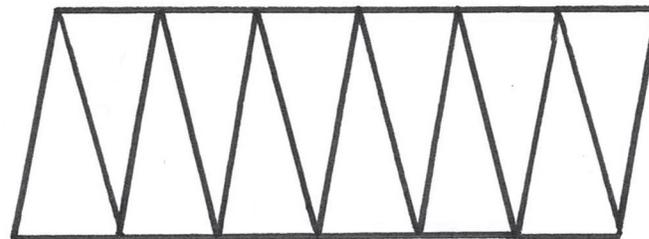
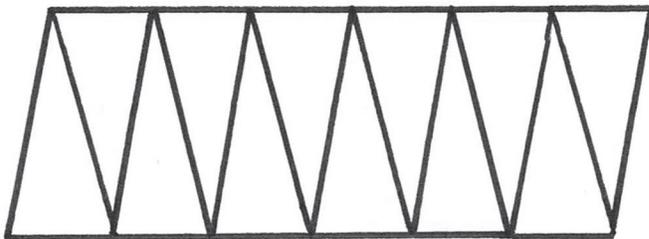
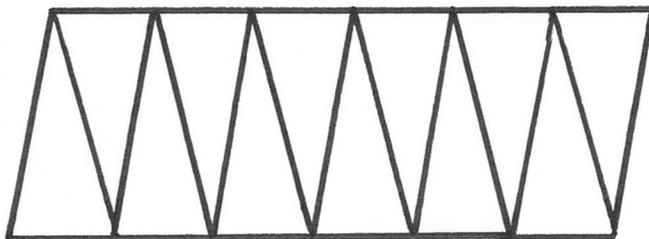
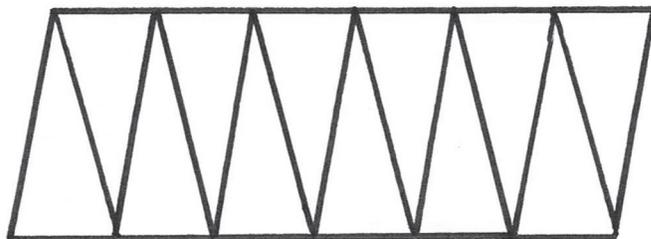
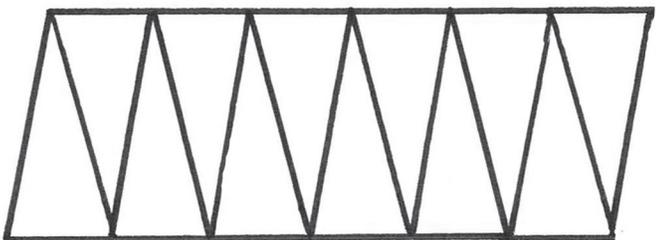
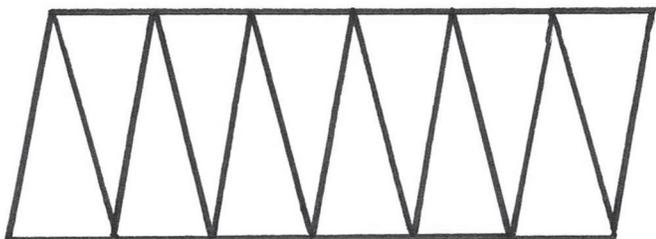
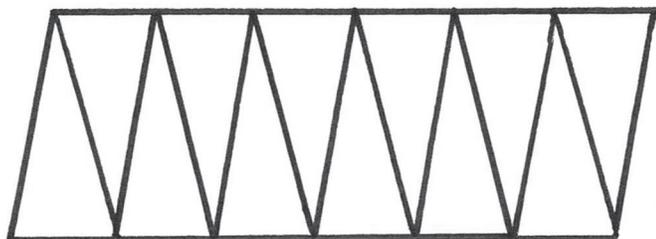
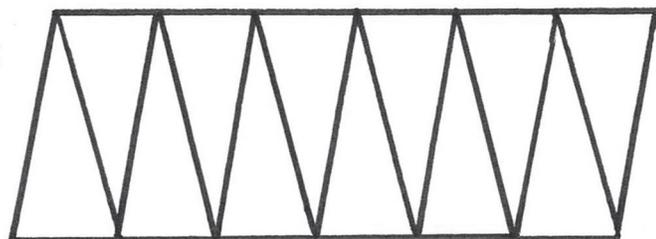
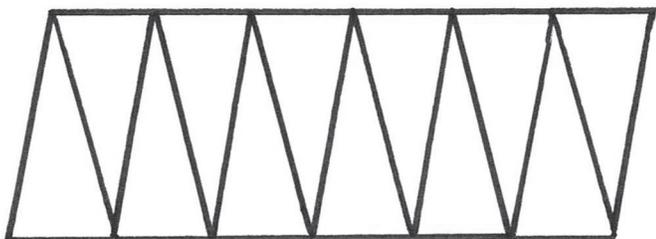
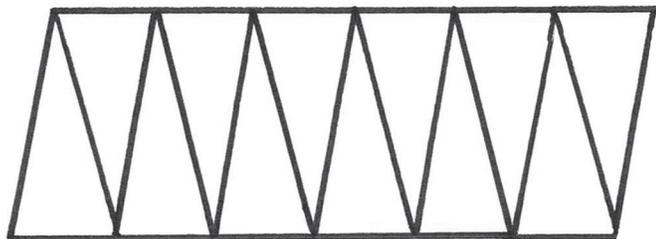
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