



My Brilliant Idea Lesson Plan



Inspired by the book, *What Do You Do with An Idea?* By Kobi Yamada & Mae Besom

What do you do with an idea that might be different, daring or just a little bit wild? Do you hide it, ignore it or pretend it is not yours? Or do you welcome that idea and let it grow into something wonderful? This story is for anyone, at any age, who's ever had an idea that seemed a bit too big or a bit too crazy!

My Brilliant Idea Puppet

For this puppet you will learn how to make some basic shapes with paper. We will also teach some basic paper folding techniques. Once you have made all the pieces you can attach them in any way you would like to create your Brilliant Idea Puppet.

Engagement Activity

The concept of an idea can be difficult for young children to grasp, so begin by talking about past inventors whose ideas were turned into tangible things (e.g. Thomas Edison – first light bulb). Read the story or watch the online reading available on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/embed/EDbokx01j0o>

For further discussion about the intriguing philosophical questions this story addresses refer to this lesson plan from The Prindle Institute for Ethics.

<https://www.prindleinstitute.org/books/what-do-you-do-with-an-idea/>

Making Your Puppet

Supplies

Colour cardstock	Glue stick or glue gun
Patterned paper (like scrap booking paper)	Stapler
Yarn	Rectangular piece of cardboard for wrapping yarn
Shapes for tracing	Paint stir stick, large popsicle stick or dowel for holding the puppet
Scissors	
Tape	

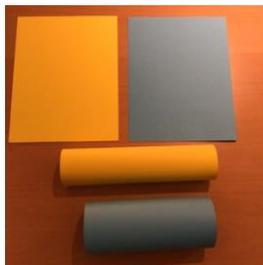
Step 1 – Square Pyramid Head



How to make a square shape from an 8 ½" x 11" piece of paper

- You will need an 8 ½" x 11" piece of paper
- See the first two pictures above to learn how to make a square from a rectangular piece of paper
- Take the square piece of paper and fold it in half to make a triangle
- Open the square and fold the opposite corners together
- Cut along one of the folded edges, from the corner to the middle, and glue the paper together as shown in the pictures

Step 1 – Cylinder Head



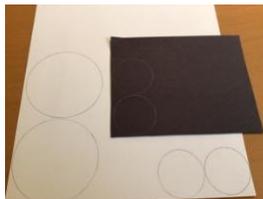
Long Head

- You will need an 8 ½" x 11" piece of paper
- Attach the 2 longest sides together with glue or tape

Short Head

- You will need an 8 ½" x 11" piece of paper
- Attach the 2 shortest sides together with glue or tape

Step 2 – Eyes



Tracing Shapes

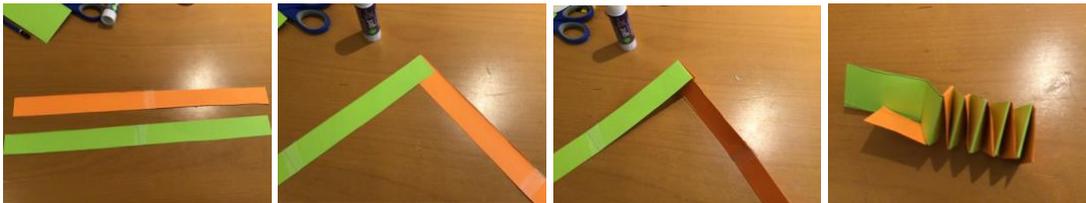
- The eyes of your puppet can be any shape
- Look around your house for good tracing templates
- Circles, ovals, squares, diamonds
- Remember to make an Iris and pupil

Step 3 – Beak or Horn

- Fold an 8 ½" x 11" in half and cut into 2 small rectangles.
- Draw a line from the middle of the short side of the rectangle to the corner of the opposite side. Repeat so you have drawn a triangle.
- Fold the two long edges in half then open.
- Fold the shortest end over 2 cm so you have a base for gluing the shape onto the puppet
- Fold the tip of the triangle as shown in the picture to give it a bend.
- This triangle shape could be a beak or horn.



Step 4 – Paper Springs



- Begin with 2 strips of paper of equal size such as 8 ½” x 1”
- Glue these strips together, overlapping the ends so that the strips form a right angle
- Snugly fold the lower paper strip over the top one.
- Next, fold the paper strip that is now the lower layer snugly over the paper which is now on top.
- Continue this pattern, of always folding the lower strip over the top strip until all the paper has been folded into a square.

Step 5 – Yarn Hair



- Take your yarn and wrap it around a piece of hard cardboard 10-20 times
- To make it more interesting you can wrap two different colours of yarn together
- You can make long hair or short hair
- See the pictures for an example of how to cut the hair

Step 6 – Circle Shapes & Spirals



- Find some different sizes of plastic lids to use as templates
- Trace a circle and cut it out
- Make a dot in the middle of your circle and then draw a spiral around and around to the outside
- Cut out this spira
- Fold one end of the spiral over so that you can glue. it onto your puppet



Step 7 – Paper Strips



- Cut out a bunch of paper strips
- They can be long or short
- Curl the paper around a pencil to make a spring
- Fold the paper back and forth to make an accordion
- Make big paper loops by fastening the ends of the strips together
- You can use these for legs, arms or hair

Step 8 – Fasten the Pieces Together



What will your creature look like?

- Pyramid Head or Cylinder?
- Long Hair or Short
- Beak or Horns
- Spirals or springs
- Include any other details

Dramatic Play & Storytelling

Animating Your Puppet

- What kind of creature did you make?
- What kind of sounds does it make?
- How does it move?
- Can your creature fly, crawl or swim?
- Where does it like to live?
- What does it like to do?



Storytelling Ideas

- Introduce your puppet to another creature.
- Create a short puppet play about these two friends and something they like to do together.

Puppeteer Tips – 5 things to remember:

- Puppeteer’s eyes are on the back of the puppet.
- Puppet’s eyes are looking where they should.
- Movement is important: gestures, breathing, walking, sitting, double take, looking
- Emotions: the puppets words and actions have recognizable emotions.
- Voice: loud, clear, play with different voices (high, low, slow, fast, breathy)

For Teachers – Curriculum Connections

<p>Mathematics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shape and Space – Exploring 2D & 3D shapes <p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Things – Make a toy <p>English Language Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehend various kinds of texts • Respect and support others • Explore thoughts and ideas 	<p>Art</p> <p><i>Expression</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Illustrate or tell a story</i> • <i>Decorate items personally created</i> <p><i>Sculpture</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make 2D & 3D assemblages from found materials <p>Drama</p> <p><i>Puppetry</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become aware of the puppets as a communicative medium • Apply moving, speaking and dramatization skills • Appreciate the complexities of a puppet performance • Apply puppetry skills to other subjects
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Where to Find Us:

<p>Facebook: @WPPuppet Facebook Group for Teachers: EXPLORE, CREATE, PLAY and LEARN with Puppets Twitter: @WPPuppetTheatre</p>	<p>YouTube: WPPuppetTheatre Pinterest: WP Puppet Theatre Instagram: @wppuppet Website: Wppuppet.com</p>
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