

EUROPE

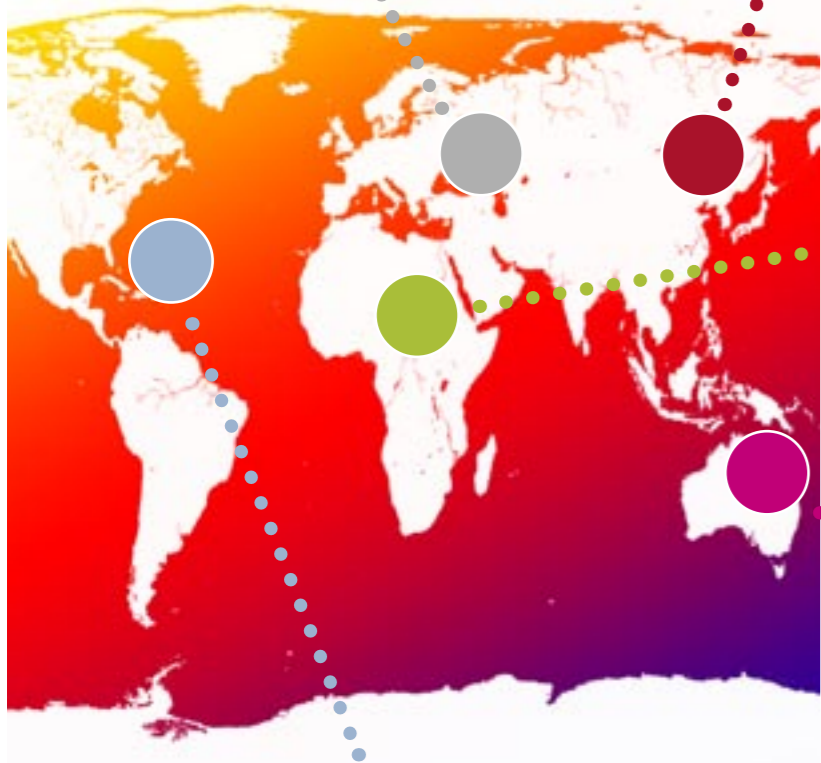
Puppet theatre has enjoyed waves of popularity in Europe as early as the sixth century, when puppet shows were mostly enactments of bible stories and means of religious instruction to a largely illiterate audience. With the advent of morality plays, puppetry ceased to be a form of religious teaching to become popular entertainment, specialising in bawdy humour and slapstick.

There are great similarities between characters in all European puppet theatre: roguish Hanswurst in Germany; Karagioz in the Turkish shadow puppet tradition; Punch in Britain; Guignol in France; and in the Czech Republic, Kasperek.

European puppet theatre, often politically critical and subversive has been regarded with a wary eye by authorities at various periods. Indeed, banned in England under Cromwell, monitored by governments in Eastern Bloc countries under communism, and effectively expelled from Germany under the Nazi regime.

Europe also has several carnival traditions, and masks and traditional costumes are nowadays combined with giant puppets at large-scale out door events such as St Christopher's Street parade and other national or regional celebrations.

The colours we chose to represent Europe were red, blue and gold. These colours seemed appropriate because they are the most common in European national dress.



CARIBBEAN

The Carnival history of Trinidad, Barbados and many other Caribbean islands steered the focus of our research. It has encouraged focus on the colour and energy of Caribbean carnivals that could influence the parade. The carnival traditions are important aspects to the island life and they parade exotic and elaborate costumes and headdresses, which are often the representation of the colours of the foods and creatures that inhabit the islands.

CHINA

China has a wealth of puppet forms, with intricate shadow, beautiful rod, and even finger puppets for children being the most popular amongst all.

In Chinese tradition there are five basic colours, each relating to an equivalent element, direction and season (very much in the same way that the Chinese Zodiac can be represented as a Metal Monkey, a Fire Horse or a Water Rat). Red: fire and Summer; Black: water and Winter; Green: wood and Spring; White: metal and Autumn; and Yellow represents the Earth, which also supports all other elements.

These five colours are used in the making of their puppets, most famously the fantastic Dragons, seen annually in the traditional Chinese New Year celebrations.

AFRICA

Africa is a vast continent that is home to diverse peoples, languages, religions and cultures. Amidst the array of different influences there is one common thread that every culture is linked by the relationship with the land. The richness of the colours, in many examples of traditional dresses, clearly reflects the shades from harvest, wildlife and the landscape they inhabit.

As the making of puppets was considered to be sacred, little has been reported on the subject and though they undoubtedly exist in Africa, they are neither numerous, nor easy to locate. African masquerades, puppets and masks often represented mythical and symbolic beings, usually animals and birds, worn to conceal the humans inside.

On the website www.euronet.nl/users/edotter you will find film and sound clips of the annual masquerade of music, song and dance described as total theatre. The puppets used in these were predominantly head and body, pictures – examples of which can be found on Elisabeth den Otter's website.

AUSTRALASIA

Whilst there is no strong tradition of puppetry amongst the indigenous people of Australasia, it is likely that it arrived with those communities and cultures that migrated there over the centuries.

The companies found there today use the form to put forward strong educational and political messages. "Snuff Puppets" is an Australian giant puppet company who have participated in street theatre, outdoor events, and rallies such as World Environment Day and their "Twin Towers Show" promoted the cause for world peace and religious harmony. Likewise "Manna Puppets" specialise in using workshops and performance to help young people to acquire new skills as well as teaching subjects that varies from the German language to fire safety.

hope street
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STORIES OF OUR PEOPLES PUPPET CARNIVAL

hope street is an arts organisation which enriches and regenerates the cultural life of Merseyside by creating a new generation of artists through delivery of community arts projects, physical theatre and theatre-in-education productions, international arts activity and carnival.

On 5th December 2004, the Puppet Carnival was seen by over 12,000 people. It was the culmination of two months' work involving more than 200 participants from 14 community groups, representing Liverpool's cultural diversity.

The project was established to:

- Explore and celebrate the diversity of our communities' histories, traditions, heritage and culture;
- Provide knowledge, understanding of, skills and training in the heritage and traditions of puppet making and carnival;
- Promote cultural heritage and arts development in the community, amongst people of all ages and backgrounds;
- Provide a high quality visible platform for community based arts;
- Promote and showcase home-grown talents in the public domain; and
- Enhance Liverpool's cultural events calendar and raise awareness of Liverpool's diverse cultural heritage.

The research began with a week of creative writing workshops delivered by a creative writing specialist and hope street's trainee workshop leaders to 30 pupils at St. Silas Primary School, Toxteth. The pupils' poems, songs and short scenes and stories reflecting the research were displayed in the school hall at the end of the week, accompanied by a presentation to the rest of the school.

Further research was undertaken by 35 people aged 7-16 who participated in a half term arts project of dance, drama, music and design. They worked with a musician to create songs and chants drawn from their research which were influenced by music from Africa, Asia, Europe, Australasia and South America. Recurring themes emerged: the representation of puppet cultures around the world are mainly inspired by animals, birds and sea creatures.

The community group leaders then held a training week to develop skills in puppet making and also to define the colours and details of puppets inspired through the participants' research. Within four weeks, each community group made one medium sized puppet (approx. 2.5m high) and individual smaller puppets (approx. 1.5m high), which they operated during the carnival.

During the parade, each of the four sections was led by a large puppet designed and made by five commissioned artists, followed by 50-60 of the smaller community-made puppets. Despite the cold, the mood was positive amongst the assembled puppeteers and they were complimentary about the achievements of the groups and the puppets they had made.

COMMUNITY GROUPS INVOLVED

Caribbean Centre, Central Youth Club, Crown Street Resource Centre, Croxeth Child Development Service, David Lewis Youth Club, Garston Adventure Play Group, Gems, Liverpool Community College, Ginger Dance Company, Greenhouse Multi-Cultural Project, Marybone Youth Centre, Rice Lane City Farm, St. Philemons Campaigners, St. Silas Primary School, Wirral Youth Theatre.

LARGE PUPPETS DESIGNED AND MADE BY

Jo Pocock (Lion), Rowan Watts and Jackie Swanson (Sea Horse), Eilidh Bryan (Fly), Sigrid Kristoffersen (Flamingo)

WORKSHOP LEADERS

Catriona Burke, Elise Brennan, Kirsty Williams
Jonathan Pickett, Jenny Quarless, Claire Noble, Emma Kelly, Christoph Bode, Carol McDonough

MENTORS

Helen Davies, Rowan Watts, Paula Berry, Carl Cockram, Oscar Carrasco, Therese Collins

PROJECT MANAGER

Jo Topping

STAGE MANAGER

Louise Tishler

PHOTOS

Mike Wight

Thanks to Semaphore Design Associates and First Take Ltd.

Hope Street is planning to deliver PLANT INVASION, a spectacular large-scale outdoor event involving professional artists and community groups in Spring 2006. For details of how to get involved, please contact us on 0151 708 8007.

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www.hope-street.org
Tel: 0151 708 8007

Hope Street Limited is a company limited by guarantee (2274170) and a registered charity (327870)



"The groups did an amazing job on all of the small puppets and the large puppets were just breathtaking. The parade was a great success with larger crowds than ever before... thank you again for your help in making the parade so popular."

- Nicola O'Boyle, Events Manager, Liverpool Culture Company

RESOURCES

Liverpool Central Library has lots of resources for anyone interested in reading more about European and world puppetry. The Internet is also a good source of information.

Puppet Making Traditions

www.puppetguild.org.uk
www.divadlo-radost.cz
www.coprosys.cz
<http://eatras.lele.w3.it>
www.draktheatre.cz
www.sagecraft.com/puppetry/
www.geocities.com/bulunima

History of Puppetry

www.zeitgeist.net/wfca/radpup.htm
www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Senate/7672/puppet.html
www.frischmarionettes.com/4_learning_history.htm
www.bertstaddon.com/history.htm
www.puppetpub.com/bcraft.html

Books

Puppets and Puppetry, Peter Fraser, 1980

The Puppet Theatre of the Modern World, Union Internationale des Marionettes, 1967

Puppets Around the World, Gina Nuttall, 2004

The Complete Book of Puppetry, David Currell, 1974

"It was fantastic being involved with something so big and exciting. Roll on next year!" - Campaign Leaders, St. Philemon's Campaigners

"I loved making the puppets and walking in the parade." - Emily Tode, aged 7

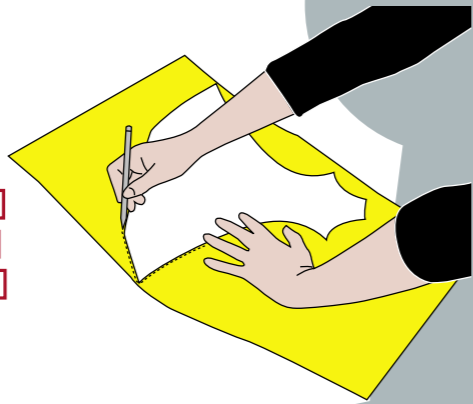
"The puppets were good." - Noah Kinvig, aged 2 1/2

"It (the parade) brought Liverpool to life." - Lawrence Langton, Crown Street Resource Centre

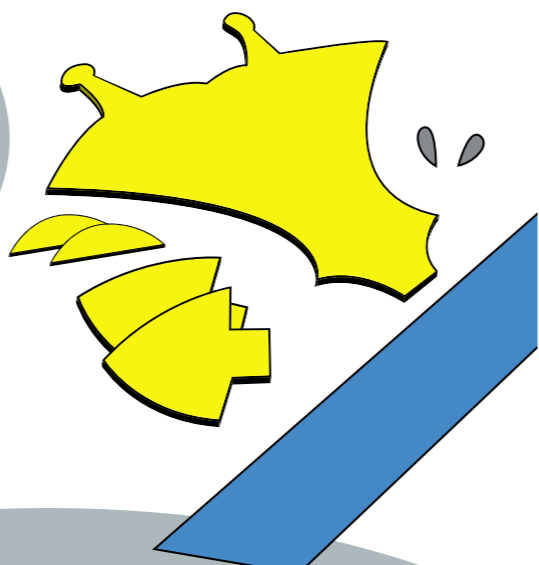
"The best... fun... exciting... boss!" - Steve Lawley, St. Silas Primary School



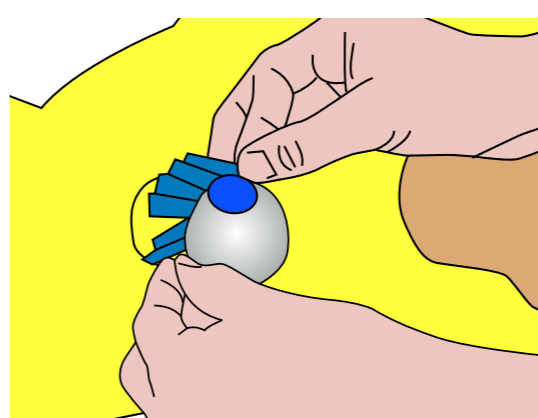
HOW TO MAKE A GIRAFFE PUPPET



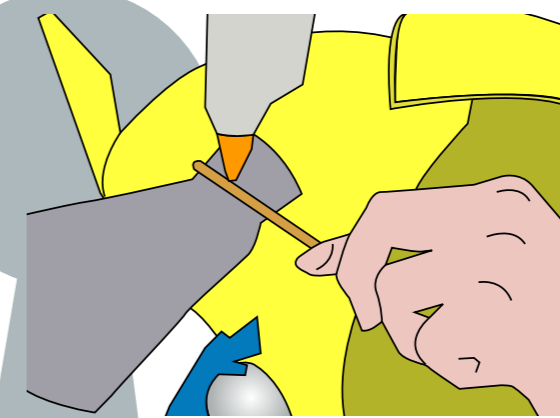
Draw and cut out template of Giraffe head and ears on piece of thick card. Draw round Head template onto yellow *Plastozote/Funky Foam and cut out.



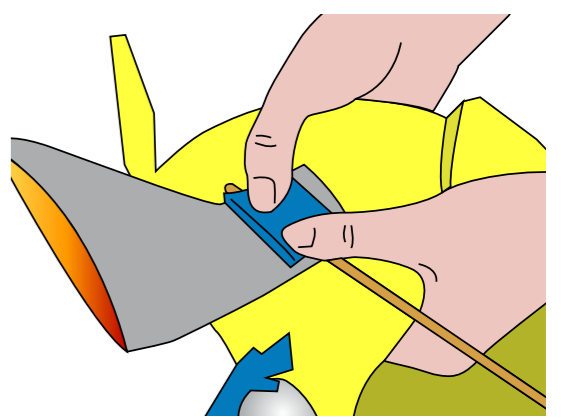
Draw round ear template twice onto black, pre-covered *Plastozote/Funky Foam and cut out. Also cut small shapes to use as 2 eyelids (yellow) and 2 nostrils (black) using the scraps of *Plastozote/Funky Foam.



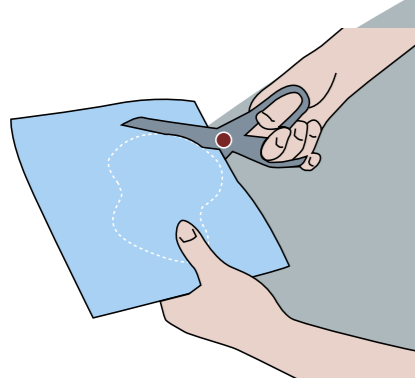
Cut-up feather to use as eyelashes.



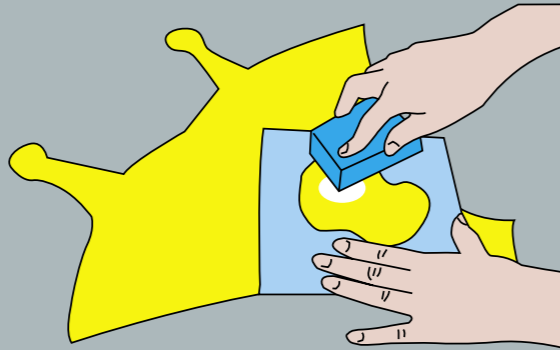
Using *Glue gun stick the *Garden cane just behind the ear.



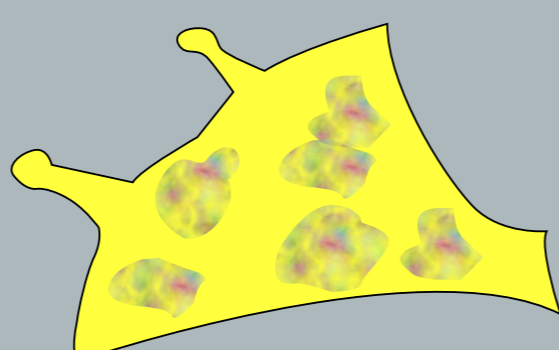
Re-enforce with an extra piece of *Plastazote (use strong tape if not using Glue gun). Repeat on other side of head.



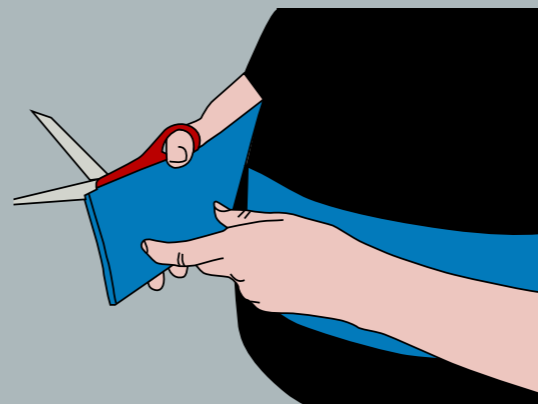
Draw giraffe spot shape onto thick card and cut out the middle section.



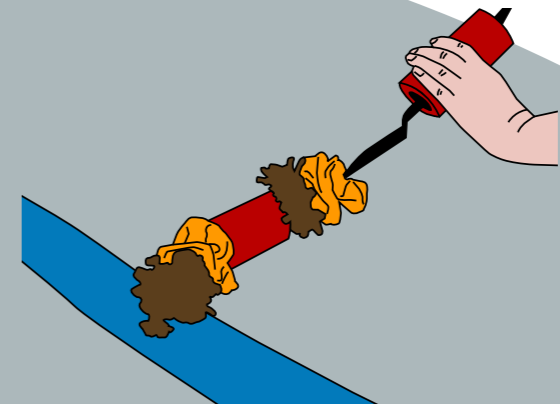
Place this template onto the giraffe head in various places and dab with a thin layer of glue using the sponge.



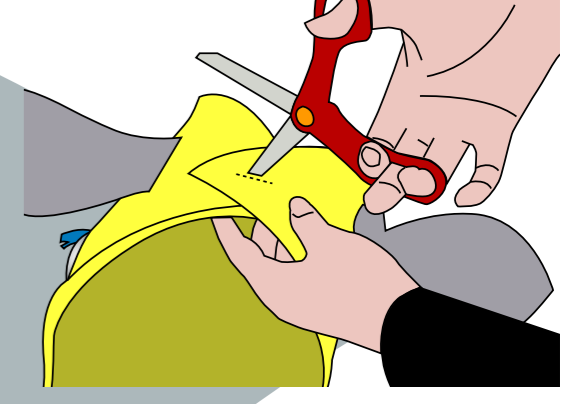
Shake a thin layer of glitter onto the glued area and shake off the excess to leave a glitter spot shape. Create other shapes and designs on your giraffe head by using a paintbrush to draw on glue patterns and shaking glitter on.



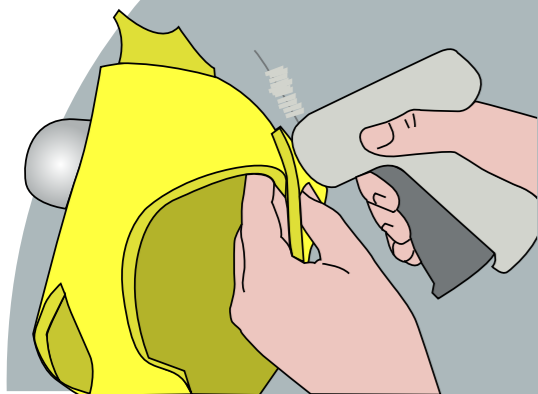
Draw out using a ruler and Cut a piece of *Plastozote/Funky Foam three inches thick and long enough to go round wearers waist with a three inch overlap (attach a few pieces together if necessary for length).



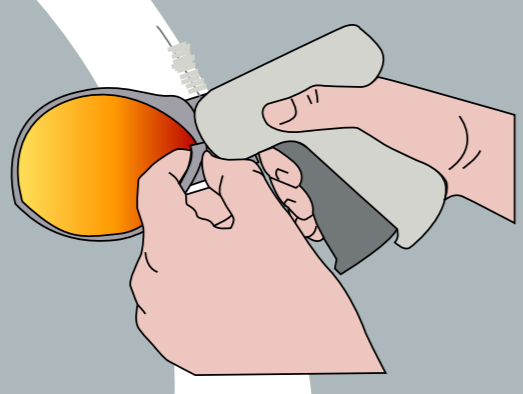
Make two small holes one-third along waistband. Thread ribbon through hole and tie with a double knot. Cut the Covered Tubing into sections of equal length (20cm). Thread two *Scrunchies onto ribbon then a section of Covered Tubing. Alternate like this until Neck is length you want.



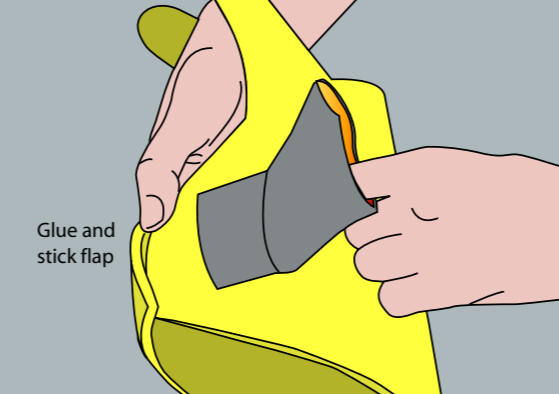
Make a hole through two side edges of head. Thread end of neck ribbon through two holes, pull through until last *Scrunchie is tight against head. Tie ribbon in a double knot and cut off extra ribbon.



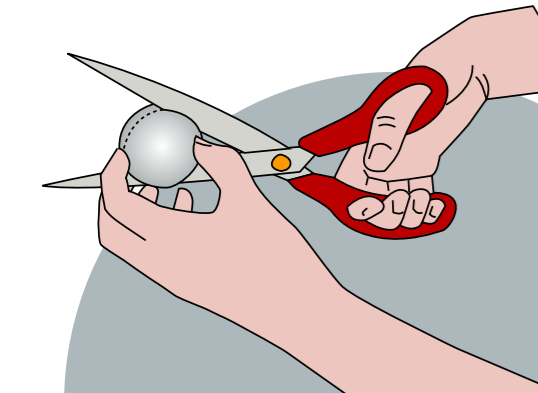
Curve head to create 3D shape and attach edges well using *Kimble gun.



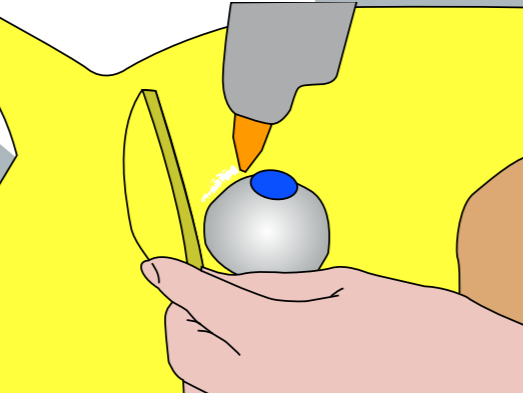
Curve and attach ears in same way making sure sparkly side is on the inside.



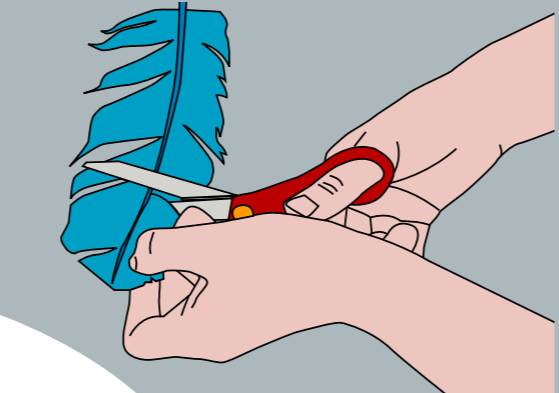
Attach ears to head using Glue-gun to attach flaps.



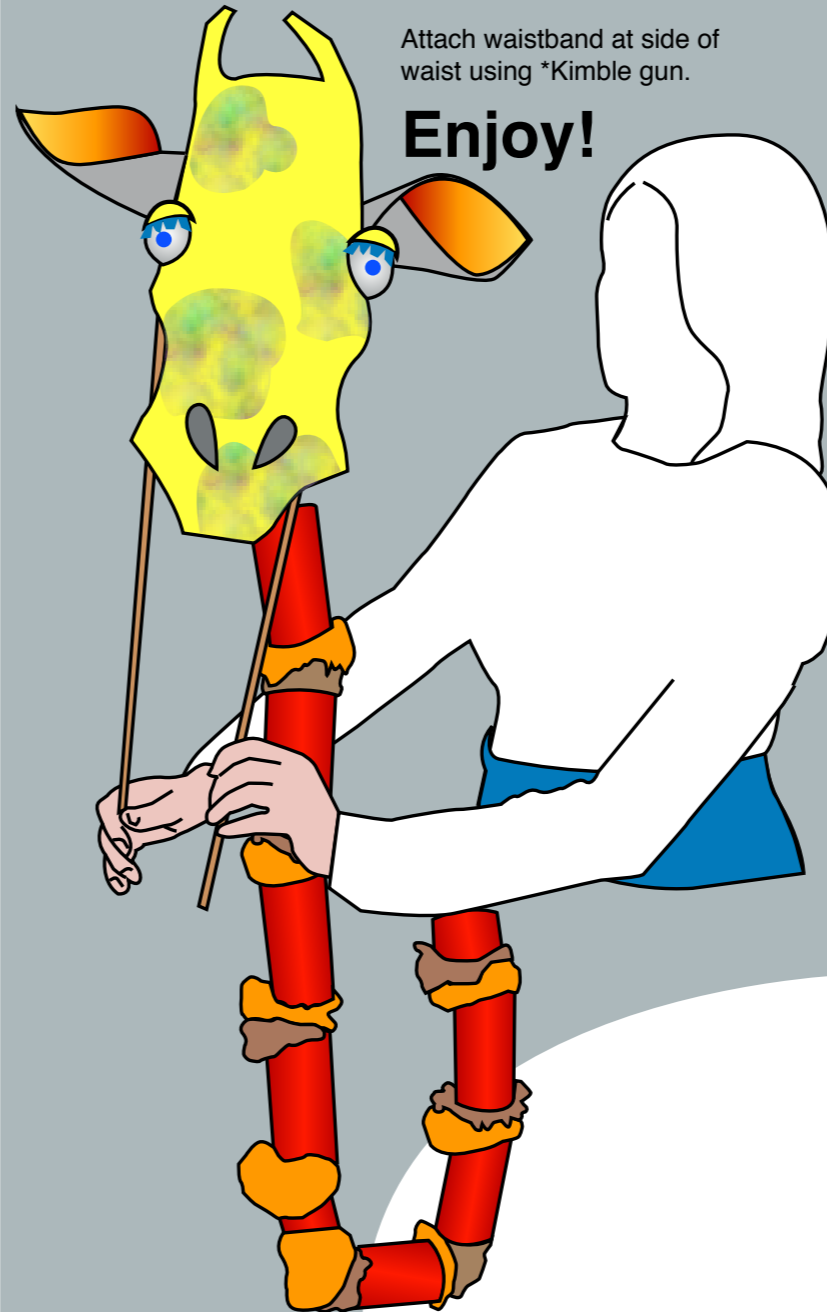
Cut *Polystyrene Ball in half (Adult only). Stick to head using *Glue-gun.



Stick extra detail onto eye and face: eyelids, sequins for centre of eyes.



Cut-up feather to use as eyelashes.



Attach waistband at side of waist using *Kimble gun.

Enjoy!

HOW TO MAKE A GIRAFFE PUPPET

Tools and materials OR easy to get alternatives:
 *Glue gun and glue sticks OR Glue-stick or PVA glue (only for use by adults)
 *Kimble gun and Tags OR Big Stapler and Staples (only for use by adults or older children under close supervision)
 Adult's scissors
 Children's scissors
 Glue spreader
 Pots/Shakers
 Ruler
 Pen
 Sponge
 Thick card
 *Latex Glue OR Strong glue stick/ PVA
 PVA Glue
 *Gaffa Tape OR Scellotape

*Cable Ties OR String
 *Plastozote/Funky Foam (yellow and black) OR Coloured card
 *Foam Pipe-lagging(1m) OR Cardboard Tubes (eg kitchen/toilet roll)
 *Shiny/Sparkly Fabrics (gold) OR Shiny/Sparkly card
 *Coloured/Sparkly Scrunchies OR Strips of bright material
 *Polystyrene Ball OR Circles of card
 *2 Short Garden Canes OR 2 Straight sticks
 Ribbon (1.5m)
 Sequins
 Glitter
 Jewels(optional)
 Sparkly cocktail sticks(optional)
 *can be replaced by alternative