

CAMEL PUPPET INSTRUCTIONS

Every day of the VBS, Camel Adventures, there is a puppet show written for you between Camelot and Camelia. The students will enjoy getting to know these camels during your VBS. We are excited to give you the instructions and patterns to make these two puppets. You are free to use different materials or select from what is locally available at a reasonable price in your area.

1. Gather the supplies you will need.
 - Scissors
 - Pencil (for tracing pattern onto the fabric)
 - Glue (fast acting that works on fabric: silicone or hot glue)
 - Stuffing or batting, quilting liner works well, 1/2 meter
 - Cardboard (to strengthen the mouth)
 - Sewing needle with a large eye
 - Light weight yarn
 - Small pompons (puff balls)
 - 1 Meter camel colored felt
 - Small piece of dark felt (black or brown for the nose), another of red felt(mouth), and optional pink felt for the ears
2. Download the PDF pattern sheet and print two copies of the large page using 11x17 paper or A3 (or print on smaller pages and tape together). Print a copy of the small page using Letter or A4 paper.
 - Camel head pattern
 - Mouth pattern
 - Nose pattern
 - Ears pattern

Buy the fabric needed for the camel. We recommend felt fabric, because it is strong and doesn't fray. However, you may use whatever economic fabric you can find in your area. We recommend a stiff or strong fabric.

The amount of fabric below is an estimate, bring the patterns with you to the store when you buy the fabric to make sure you have enough.

Camel color, light brown or beige 1 meter

Red 1/8 meter

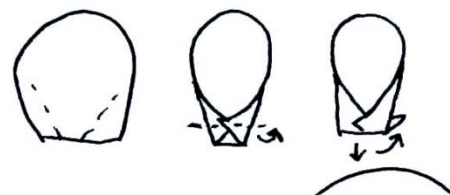
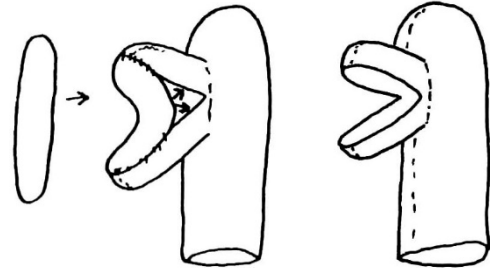
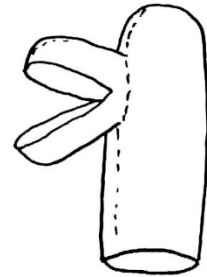
Brown or black 1/8 meter (less if possible)

Yarn: 1/4 package of brown for hair.

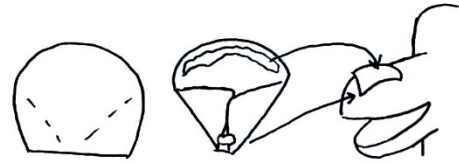
1/3 package multicolor 13mm size pompons (puff balls)

MAKING YOUR PUPPET

1. Cut out the fabric for the body and mouth.
 - Cut out two pieces for the body
 - Cut one piece for the mouth
2. Sew the head pieces together but leave open the mouth and the bottom where your hand will go.
3. Sew the two pieces for the top of the mouth together leaving the straight edges open. Do the same for the bottom of the mouth. Sew the short straight edges to the head in the side opening. Leave the long open edges for the inside of the mouth.
4. Keeping the fabric inside out, open the mouth pieces and pin the red felt mouth into the opening. Fold the red mouth in half to gauge where the mouth corners should be connected to open correctly. Carefully sew around the red mouth, attaching it to the head.
5. Turn the head right side out so all stitches are on the inside. Cut cardboard pieces for the inside of the mouth. If using corrugated cardboard, try to lay the pattern with the width not on the corrugated lines where it would bend easily. Cut it in half and tape the top to the bottom, leaving a 2 cm gap.
6. Cut two pieces of filler (pillow stuffing) about the length of the mouth, but wide enough to roll into a log, fill the top and bottom of the nose section with each piece of filler. Use enough to make the nose firm. Your hand should be touching the cardboard pieces when you operate the puppet. Repeat with another large piece of filler for the head, push it firmly up into the face and head, allowing some to come down the neck. Your hand will be on the front of the neck and the first part of the mouth when operating the puppet.
7. Wind several meters of yarn around your hand, spreading your fingers to make it easier to remove. Tie it in the center and spread out the loops to make a cluster of "hair" and attach it to the top of the head with silicone glue.
8. If eyelids are desired (As we used with Camelot) draw around the paper pattern on the camel colored felt and cut them out. First glue eyes on the face, then glue eye lids over them using your finger to lift the center a little so it doesn't glue down flat. If making Camelia, you might want to attach eye lashes that are purchased or cut from dark colored felt.
9. The ears can be large by tracing the pattern provided or trimmed to be small. Inserting pink as we did for Camelia is also optional. We glued a hem around the outside of the ear to give it more fullness and strength after attaching pink felt on top of the camel colored ear felt. Decide where to attach the ears to the head and if you like them flat or tucked in and slightly curled. Hot glue works very well to glue them in place quickly.



10. The nose for Camelia is simply cutting around the small nose pattern on black felt and gluing two to her face. Camelot's nose had the addition of a second nose covering the black "nostrils" tucking under a small hem to give an added dimension and a bigger nose for the puppet.



11. The harness and decorations on Camelia are made by threading a needle with embroidery yarn and sewing pompons onto it, spacing them out a bit. Drape the attractive trim any way that pleases you and glue it in place. The same can be done with curly ribbon for Camelot. The tassel was made by winding curly ribbon around four fingers, sliding it off, and securing one end tightly with many wraps. Cut the opposite end to make the colorful tassel. Glue to his harness, also made of curly ribbon that you wrap around his nose.
12. Have fun developing a voice that fits your puppet.