

# Space Puppets

Astronaut Annie Bag Puppet from Rachele Belair-Gendron @ Pinterest; Alien Finger Puppets from Baker Ross: Crafts for Teachers



## Background:

Puppetry originated around **3000 years ago**. Some believe that it originated in China, in the form of shadow puppetry. Others believe it originated in India. Some puppets are very simple to make and use, but others are very complicated and need skill to use. The person who works the puppet and makes it move is a **puppeteer**. There are many different types of puppets to be found around the world. Puppetry is a special art form that is very important in some cultures.

Types of Puppets:

- **Finger Puppet:** A very simple type of puppet where the puppet is placed on a finger and worked by moving the finger.
- **Hand Puppet:** Similar to a finger puppet, but only larger. The puppeteer uses his fingers and hand to work the puppet. A brown paper bag puppet and sock puppet is considered a hand puppet.
- **Shadow Puppet:** Another very simple puppet. A cut out figure on a rod is held in front of a light. Its shadow is projected onto a screen. The puppeteer moves the puppet around, giving it some life. Sometimes colored paper is used to give a certain amount of color to the puppet.
- **Marionette or String Puppet:** This puppet is moved around with strings that hang from above the theatre. This is one of the more complex types of puppetry and is hard to master as some marionettes can have up to thirty strings.
- And many more! Learn puppet facts for kids at <https://kids.kiddle.co/Puppet>

Artists use engineering design process similar to scientists, and often have to problem solve and use math, technology, and science to invent their creations!

## ENGINEERING DESIGN

As artists, we use an Engineering Design process similar to scientists!

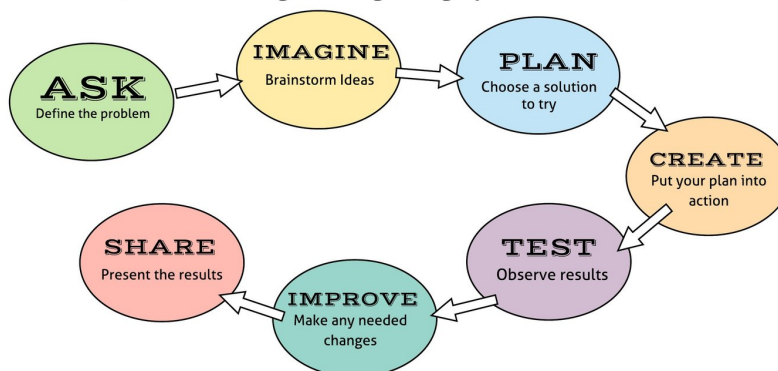


Photo Credit: Z Puppet Rosenschnoz 1



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So the next time you're creating art, remember that you're still thinking like a scientist. Art is the "A" in STEAM after all!

## **Materials:**

### Astronaut Paper Bag Puppet

- A brown or white paper lunch bag
- Scissors
- Coloring utensils (crayons, markers, etc.)
- Glue stick
- [Astronaut Annie template](#), or free-style your astronaut!

### Alien Peeper Finger Puppet

- Pipe Cleaner(s)
- Googly eyes or sticker eyes
- Craft Pom Poms
- Scissors
- Liquid glue or hot glue gun
- Any additional decorations or add ons! (ex. Straws, feathers, stickers, bows, etc)

## **Puppet 1 – Astronaut Bag Puppet**

### Procedure:

1. Take your Annie Astronaut template or just your paper bag and decorate it so that it can be ready for its next mission launch!
2. Once you have colored your astronaut, use scissors to cut out the astronaut template. You may need a little help from an adult for this one! And if you are just decorating your bag, you can skip this step!
3. Once the Annie Astronaut is all suited up, take your glue stick and add glue to the back of the astronaut. Now you can attach your astronaut to the paper bag.
4. Let your astronaut dry from your decorating and gluing, and in no time it'll be ready to go!
5. Whether you decorate just your bag or use the template, once your astronaut is ready you can use it in your next puppet show!

What was your thought process for designing and decorating your astronaut?

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Did you take some time to brainstorm, or did you just jump right in to making your astronaut?

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Did you run into any problems while creating your puppet? If so, how did you use problem-solving to get past any issues?

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## **Puppet 2 – Alien Peeper Finger Puppet**

Procedure:

1. Pour some milk into a shallow dish or bowl until the milk covers the bottom.
2. Add some drops of food coloring on the milk. You can use a variety of colors, just be sure to add 3-4 drops of each color.
3. Add a drop of dish soap into the center of the milk.
4. And that's it! Watch in amazement as the colors dance across the surface of the milk!

Draw a blueprint for the design your alien finger puppet.

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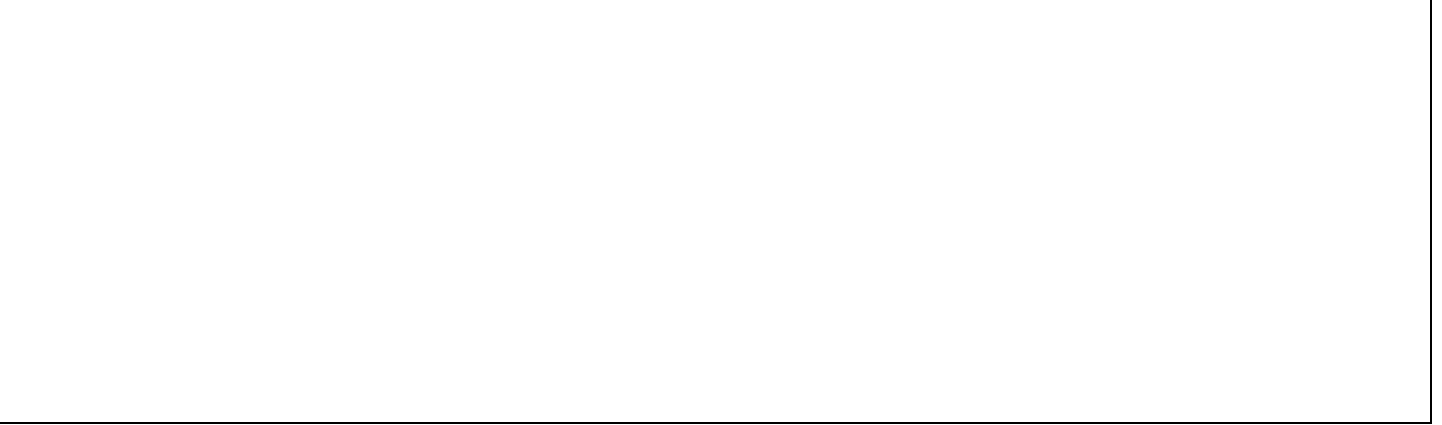
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Now draw a picture of how your alien finger puppet actually turned out!



What was your thought process for designing and decorating your astronaut?

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Did you run into any problems while creating your puppet? If so, how did you use problem-solving to get past any issues?

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## **Extensions:**

- Try making a layered density column that you can drink! Try substituting unsweetened soft drink mix for the food coloring, or four flavors of a sweetened mix for the sugar plus the food coloring!
- Instead of using dish soap, try using hand soap or other cleaning liquids in your magical milk experiment! Do you have the same outcome?
- In your rainbow reaction, make more colors to add to your rainbow by combining food coloring together. What colors can you create?

## **Other resources:**

<https://www.bakerross.co.uk/craft-ideas/kids/alien-finger-puppets/>

<https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/66700/26-puppets-kids/>

<https://bongoau.wordpress.com/2016/01/07/teaching-science-with-puppets/>

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/puppet/399576>

<https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/resources-for-educators/classroom-resources/lessons-and-activities/lessons/6-8/the-science-of-shadow-puppets/>

<https://zpuppets.org/stem-of-puppetry>