

MAKE A FRESHWATER SPECIES PUPPET



GET MAKING



45 mins



6-12 yr olds



indoor fun

Be inspired by [storyteller Cindylou's epic journey of a salmon](#) travelling up the river and the animals it meets on the way: the playful otter, the nervous little water vole, and the superfast kingfisher. Then get creative and make your own river puppets using recycled materials.

What you'll need:

- A recycled cardboard tube
- Recycled cardboard
- Brown felt
- Green recycled fabric or tissue paper
- Small pieces of black, white and pink paper for the eyes and nose
- A few short lengths of black wool or thread
- Colourful narrow gift ribbon
- Elastic thread or string
- Scissors
- Eco-friendly glue
- Sticky tape
- Felt tip pens



How to make the water vole:

1. Draw a circle about 10cm wide onto the brown felt. You could draw around the base of a coffee mug for guidance. Cut the circle out – this will become the body.
2. For the ears, cut one rectangle of brown fabric roughly 1 1/2cm x 6 cm and round the two ends.
3. Cut two very small slits on the 'body', where you would position the ears and thread the end of the rectangle through one slit and out the other side to create the ears. If you turn the vole over, you'll see that a loop has been created that you can slide your finger through to create a puppet. Dab a little bit of glue by the ears to make sure they stay in place.
4. Cut out three pieces of card – two for the eyes and one for the nose and glue them in place.
5. Cut 2 short lengths of black wool or thread. Tie a little knot in the middle and glue it onto the nose to create whiskers!

How to make the water vole's burrow:

1. Cover the recycled cardboard tube in green fabric or tissue paper.
2. Decorate the entrance to the burrow with flowers, reeds and long grass made out of fabric, paper or scrunched tissue.

Now your water vole has a home.

How to make a colourful kingfisher:

1. You could print out the image of the kingfisher on this page or use it as inspiration for your own drawing.
2. Colour it in and decorate using bright turquoise and orange felt pens, paint or collage with tissue. Get creative!
3. Glue the kingfisher onto some recycled cardboard and then cut it out.
4. Cut a long piece of elastic thread or string, tie a knot in the end and then attach it to the kingfisher.
5. Cut out many lengths of colourful ribbon and glue or tape these to the tail.

DID YOU KNOW THAT A KINGFISHER CAN DIVE INTO THE WATER AND RETURN WITH A FISH IN AROUND 2 SECONDS!



Print this kingfisher to use as a template, or use it as inspiration for your own drawing!

GET SOCIAL

We're a social bunch here at WWF so please share your creative makes with us on social media by tagging @WWF_UK and using the hashtag **#LearnToLoveNature**. Alternatively you can email us at education@wwf.org.uk. We'd love to see your work!



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