

How to make... Little Crab and Very Big Crab Puppets

Suitable for ages 4 - 10 approx

You will need:

- Water-based paints
- Pot of water
- Paintbrush
- Scissors
- PVA Glue/Super Glue and Sticky Tape
- Cardboard Eggboxes for the bodies and eyes
- Thick Paper or thin card for the claws, legs and pupils
- Garden Sticks for the handles (around 10-12 cm)



Have a go at making your very Little Crab and Very Big Crab puppets!
You may need to ask a grown up to help you with some of the cutting and glueing.

Instructions

Step 1:

Start off by cutting out the parts of the eggboxes for the bodies and eyes.

Cut out:

- The eggbox lid for Very Big Crab's body,
- A corner eggcup for Little Crab's Body,
- The separator prongs in the middle of the eggbox for the eyes,
- The hinge at the back of the eggbox for their eyelids.



Hold on to the rest of the eggbox for later!

Step 2:

Cut a long strip and a smaller strip out of the eggbox hinge for their eyelids. Then cut the prongs lengthways over the tops to split each of them in half. You now have four eyes for both crabs!

Once you're done, put these to the side for a moment while you move onto the next step.



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Step 3:

Now you can shape the egg cup into the shape of Little Crab's body and shape the eggbox lid into the shape of Very Big Crab's body.

You may have to cut or tear some of the cup away around the edges before you can fold the bodies into shape. Don't worry if it doesn't look too neat!



Step 4:

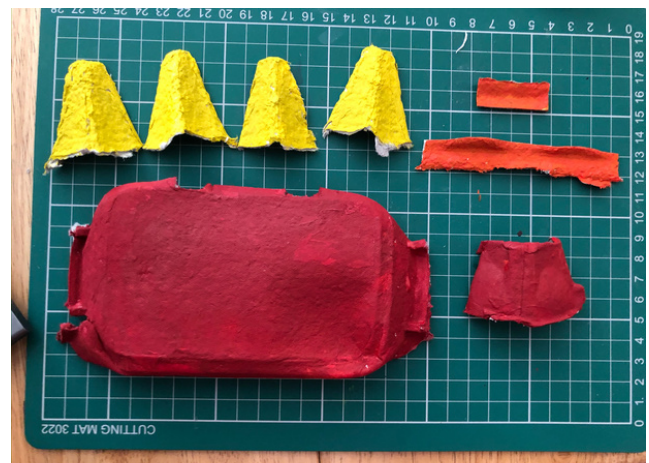
Time to start painting!

Paint:

- The bodies of the crabs - Red
- The eyes - Yellow
- The eyelids - Orange

But you can also paint them any colours that you like!

Once they're painted leave them to fully dry.

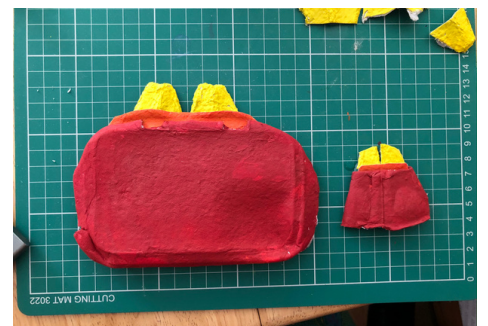


Step 5:

Once all the pieces are dry you can stick them together to make the main body of the crabs!

Start off by sticking the orange strips to the back of the bodies at the top. Then you can stick the eyes on behind them after that. You may need to trim the eyes for Little Crab because he's so small! Make sure everything sticks together really well.

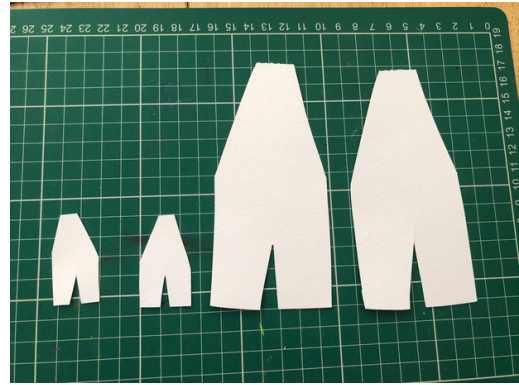
Remember it doesn't matter if they look a bit untidy at the back and you can always trim the edges a bit more if you need to!



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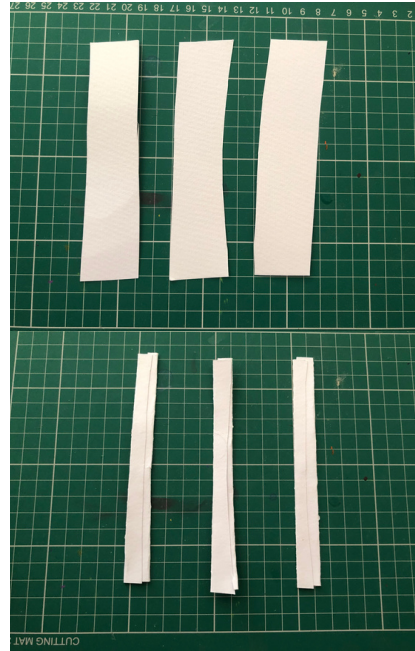
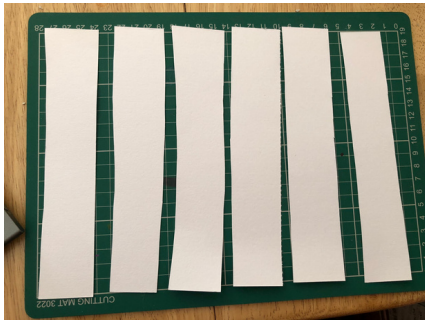
Step 6:

Now it's time to make the claws, legs and pupils! Start off by cutting out the shape of the claws in the thick paper. It's a good idea to make them a little longer at the ends so they're large enough to fold over the sides of the crab's bodies.



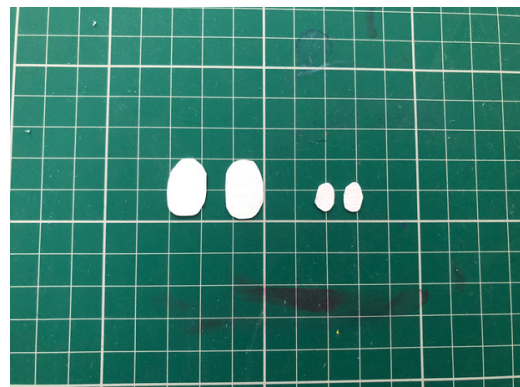
Step 7:

Next, cut 6 long strips (around 19cm) of thick paper for Very Big Crab's legs and 3 shorter strips (around 14cm) of paper for Little Crab's legs. Fold the legs for Very Big Crab's in half lengthways and fold the legs for Little Crab lengthways two or three times. Apply a little bit of PVA to the inside of the folds to make sure they stick together.



Step 8:

For their pupils, cut out two small oval shapes for Little Crab's eyes and two larger oval shapes for Very Big Crab's eyes.



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Step 9:

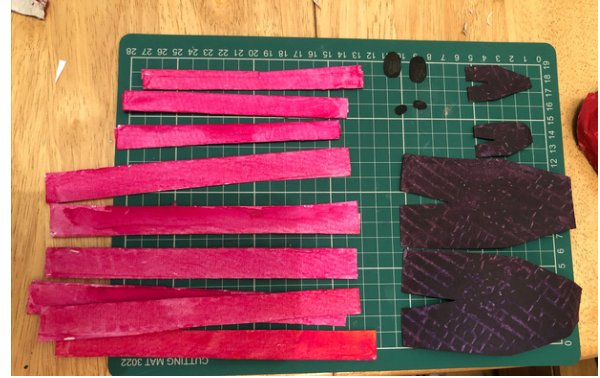
Time to paint again!

Paint:

- The Claws - Purple
- The Legs - Pink
- The Pupils - Black

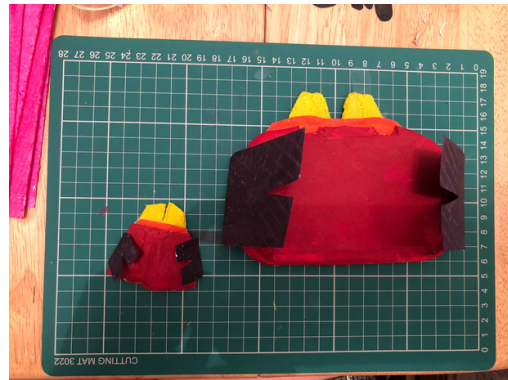
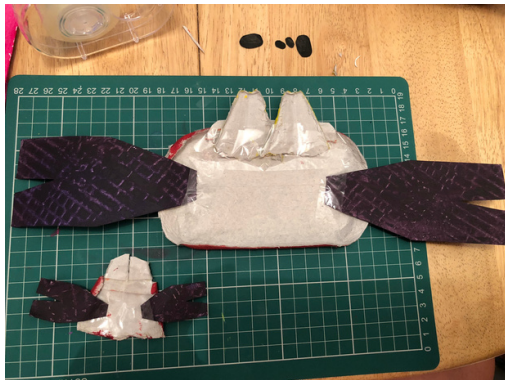
Or any colour you like!

Once these are painted, leave them to fully dry.



Step 10:

Once the claws are dry you can attach them to the crab bodies! Attach them to the back of the crab bodies. then flip the crabs over, fold the claws inwards and then wrap around at the front.



Step 11:

Now it's time to attach the crab's legs!

Start off with Very Big Crab. Give each leg a right angle fold halfway up each of the long legs to make the knees. Then stick three of the legs to each side of Very Big Crab's back. You may want to trim the legs once they're attached.

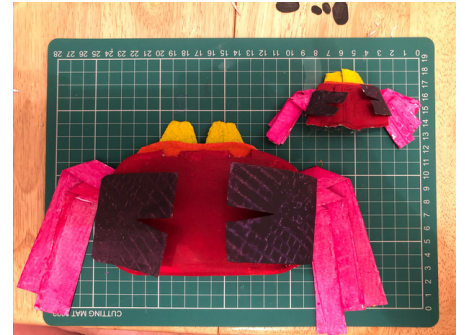
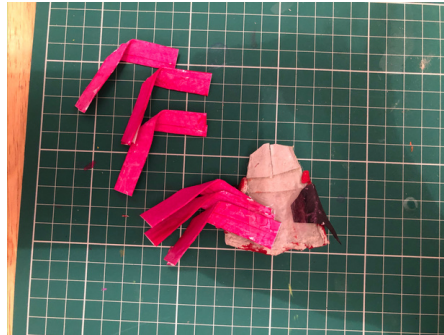
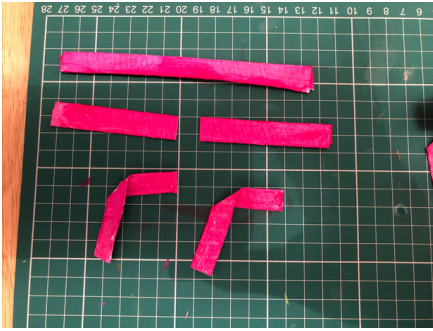


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Step 12:

Don't forget Little Crab!

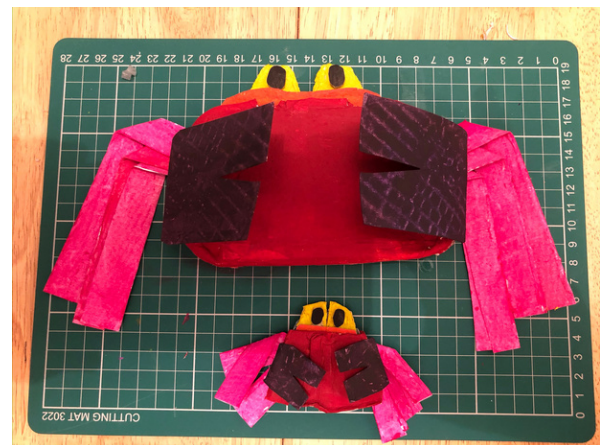
Take the three folded strips and cut each of them in half. Then fold the top 1/3 of each of the six legs to make the knees and then stick three legs on to each side of Little Crab at the back.



Step 13:

Now we're ready to make sure Little Crab and Very Big Crab can see!

Stick one of the small black ovals onto each of Little Crab's eyes and one of larger black ovals onto Very Big Crab's eyes.



Step 14:

Finally, we can add the sticks to the back of our puppets so we can puppeteer them!

To secure the sticks to the back of the puppets, cut out two more egg cups from the eggbox and trim them so they can fit to the back of each puppet. Then carefully cut a hole in each of the egg cups.



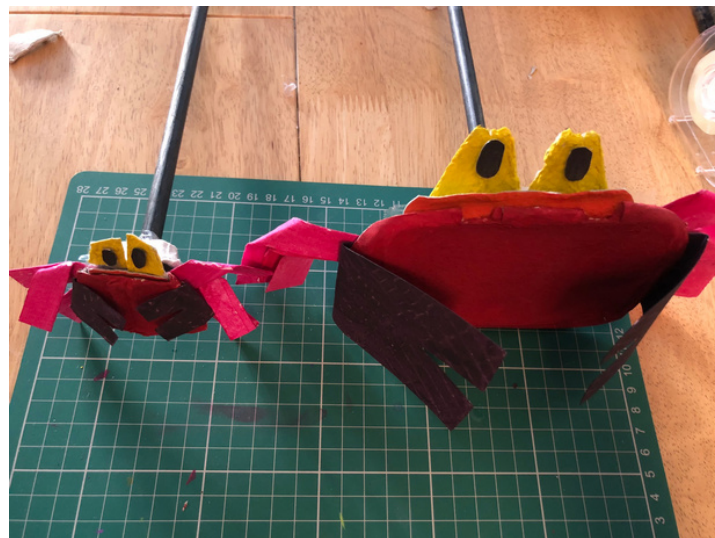
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Step 15:

Tape the eggcups to the back of the crab puppets. Then insert the sticks into the eggcups and tape them in place.



And there you have it! Your very own Little Crab and Very Big Crab Puppets!



What next?

Once you've made the crabs, why not have a go at making their rockpool using cardboard, paper, dried pasta and paints!