

Needle Felted Finger Puppets
Developed By Kate Shoemaker

Summary:

Students will be able to:

1. Identify unique animal adaptations
2. State how the animal adaptation effects the animal

Performance tasks

1. Students will describe their animal's adaption through the use of their felted figure puppet.

Grade/Level: 2nd grade and up

Time Frame: 3 hours total

Materials:

- Animal books or pictures (specific to animal adaptations)
- White Paper for sketching and planning out design
- Loose Wool Felt in a Variety of Colors
- Foam for Felting
- Felting Needles

Standards

Alaska Content Standards for the Arts:

- A) Create: A student should be able to imagine and develop artistic ideas and work.
- B) Present: A student should be able to interpret and share artistic work.
- C) Respond: A student should be able to understand and evaluate how the arts convey meanings.
- D) Connect: A student should be able to relate artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context.

Day 1

Introductions- show students example of felted figure puppet

Discuss animal adaptations

Allow students to look through animal books and select an animal to create.

Have students pair share key features of their animal

Students should sketch out a plan for their animal puppet

Review needle safety and use

Start felting body, layer thin pieced of felt on foam and use a needle to fuse fibers together in a rectangular shape, flip piece over often so that it does not get stuck to the foam

Once the rectangle is thick pick a "good" and "wrong" side, fold over each edge to the "wrong" side, add color details to match the animal on the "good" side

Form the rectangle into a tube and use needle to fuse the sides together, use figure to open the middle section often

Use needle to fuse the top together

Create animals head, roll wool fiber together in hand to read a ball, use needle to fuse fibers together, continue to add fiber until the head is desired size

Add details to face with needle and different colored fibers

Attach head to body with needle

Add details to animal (tails, feathers, ...), create details on foam first with needle and then attach to puppet

Day 2

Continue working on animal

Present their animal to their class or a partner making sure to share the adaptations that make their animal unique

Additional Activities

Students can create plays using their animals, write scripts, practice, perform