

# Create and Animate a Puppet Challenge

*Create a simple sock puppet with a distinct personality and voice*

1. There are many different types of puppets, but for this challenge, we'll be focusing on the simple sock puppet. Check out the directions for building your own sock puppet (below). Remember, you can make your puppet as simple as you'd like. Its true personality will come from how you manipulate it and give it a voice.
2. Watch the several videos provided on how to manipulate and animate your puppet, with tips and instructions from professional puppeteers. These videos will really help you learn to imbue your puppet with personality while communicating clearly with your audience.
3. Practice and explore! Play around with different personalities and voices for your puppet. If you need some help, check out the "Questions to Ask Your Puppet" worksheet (below).
4. When you've found a combination that you like, record a video in which your puppet introduces itself to us! Keep in mind that we'd like to hear more from your puppet than you (no offense). Again, if you need some ideas of what to say, you can "interview" your puppet using the "Questions to Ask Your Puppet" worksheet. Remember to show us the skills you've learned about moving your puppet and creating a voice, and remember that your eye contact should be on your puppet!
5. Upload and Share using the link on the ACT Spotlight page.

BONUS: [This is a great article](#) on the many types of puppets throughout history  
and how they're used

## Building Your Puppet

1. **Find a clean sock that's long enough to cover your arm.** A crew sock or a knee sock would work great for this! The sock can be any color you like. It can be fuzzy or plain. It can even have stripes or polka dots! Just make sure there aren't any holes.
2. **Slip the sock over your hand.** Once you the sock on, make a C-shape with your hand. Put your fingers into the toe part. Try to get your thumb into the heel part. If you can't reach it, tuck the sock into the groove between your thumb and fingers. Open and close your hand. Your sock should already start looking like a puppet.
3. **Use a marker to make two dots above the seam for the eyes.** If you want your puppet to have a nose, make a dot for that as well.

**Take the sock off.** Spread it flat on the table. The marks for the eyes and nose may look out of place, but that's fine. This is why you made them while wearing the sock.

4. **Glue some eyes onto the sock.** You can do this with a hot glue gun, fabric glue, or tacky glue. For the actual eyes, you can use buttons, pompoms, or googly eyes. Or you can just use the eyes you drew with marker!
5. **Give your puppet some (optional) decorations.** Some ideas: Pom poms, felt, buttons, yarn, etc.

## Videos from Professional Puppeteers

1. [This video](#) is a great overview of moving your puppet and making it speak. If you watch just one video, make it this one!
2. [This video](#) discusses how to operate your puppet's mouth.
3. [This video](#) is all about giving voice to your puppet.
4. [This video](#) talks about movement and gesture, and some questions to ask yourself about your puppet's personality.
5. [This video](#) is all about names and personality for your puppet.

# Questions to Ask Your Puppet

Puppet's name:

What type of creature is your puppet (human, animal, alien, something else)?

Describe your puppet's walk or any particular gestures your puppet uses:

Describe your puppet's voice. Does your puppet use an accent?

Describe your Puppet's character. Who are they?

Occupation (job):

Family (parents, siblings, spouse, children, relatives):

Homeland:

Favorite food(s):

Favorite color(s):

Education:

Social class (wealth):

Hobbies or activities your puppet enjoys:

Dislikes:

Irritating habit(s):

What is your puppet's worst fear?

What is your puppet's biggest dream?

Anything else interesting: