

# Bighorn Finger Puppet

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## Objectives:

Students will write a narrative in the form of a play about a bighorn sheep and

**Grade level:** 1<sup>st</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Duration:** 2 hours or more

**Group Size:** Individually, but then small groups of students act out their individual play to each other

**Setting:** indoors

then make a finger puppet to act it out.

## Common Core State Standards:

(GRADE 1) [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.3](#)

Write narratives in which they recount two or more appropriately sequenced events, include some details regarding what happened, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide some sense of closure.

(GRADE 2) [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.3](#)

Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.

(GRADE 2) [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.4](#)

*Tell a story* or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking audibly in coherent sentences.

(GRADE 3) [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.3](#)

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

(GRADE 3) [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3.4](#)

Report on a topic or text, *tell a story*, or

recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking clearly at an understandable pace.

## Background:

Theatre, and acting such as putting on a play, is important for several reasons.

**Theatre helps us to see a different perspective from our own.** We've shown humanity, psychology, motivations, conflict and resolution. We as the audience get to witness the trajectory of persons other than ourselves. As artists, we put ourselves into emotional and intellectual situations that may never arise in our personal lives.

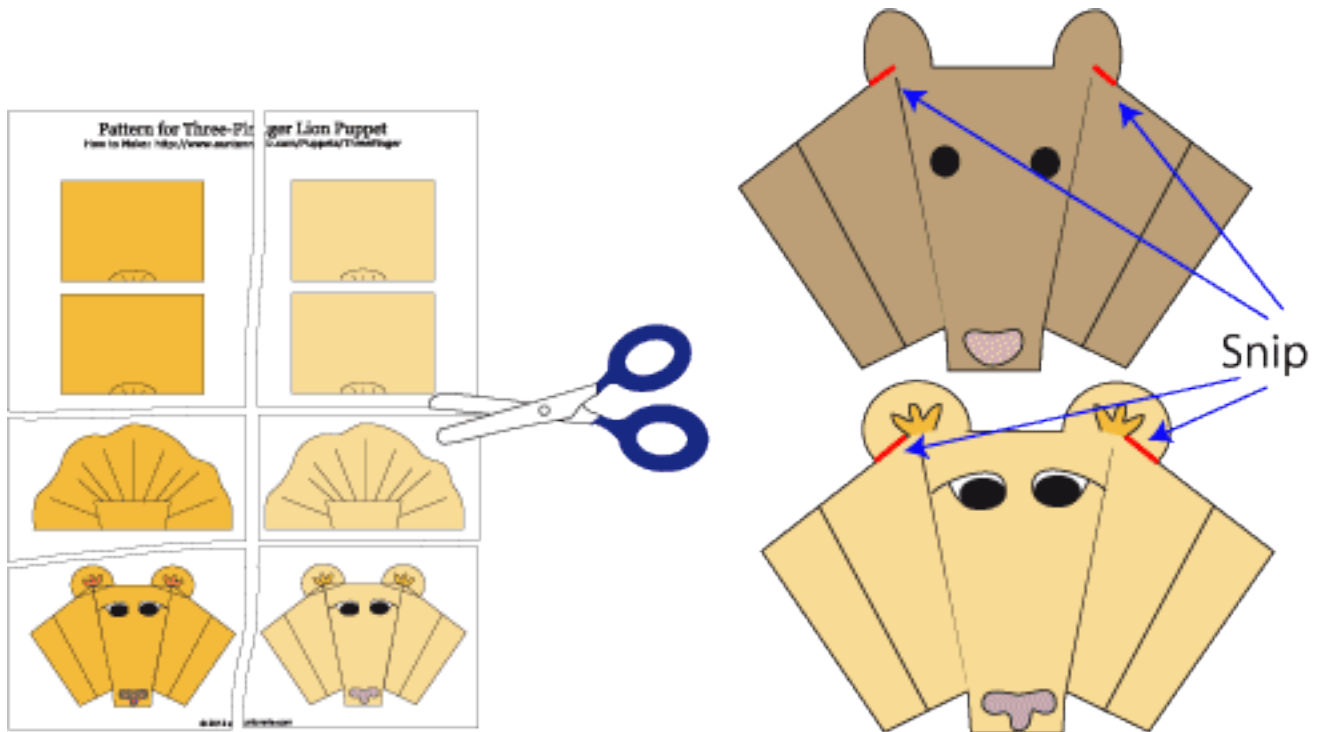
**Theatre reminds us that we are not alone.** Not only are we sharing space and an experience with the artists who are performing, we are sharing the experience with fellow audience members. Movies and television don't have the same intimacy or sense of participation. Sharing an experience with live actors and live audience members is not only valuable, it's necessary for human connection. **Theatre is immediate, evolving and always different.**

Although the script may be the same every night, the performance is unique, each and every time it happens. No two performances are ever the same. In this way, everyone involved has a distinct and unique experience that can never be replicated. **Live theatre helps to promote social discourse, dialogue and potential social change.** Theatre is a cultural phenomenon that demands that society examines itself in the mirror. We can study societal problems and attempt to find solutions. Coming together as a community to listen to opposing points of view is necessary.

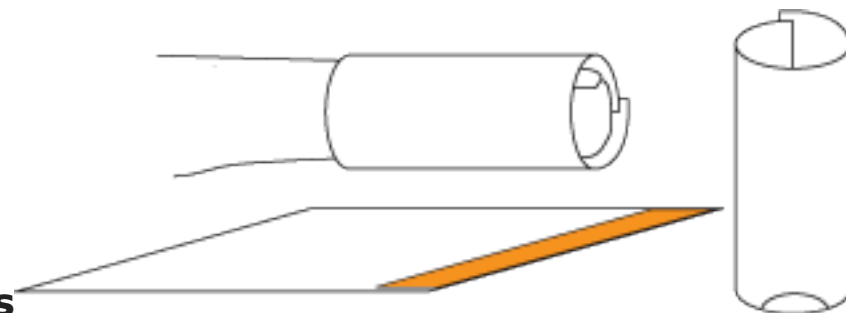
## Step 1: Cut

Cut out each puppet part on the outside black line. Each puppet has a head, two legs and an additional feature. For the lion, also cut out a mane. For a rabbit, cut out two ears. For the bighorn sheep, cut out two horns.

For the lion and bighorn sheep, snip the outer half of each ear away from the head.



**Tip:** It's easier to cut out the puppet parts if you first cut the pattern into pieces with simple straight cuts, then cut out each part on its black outline.



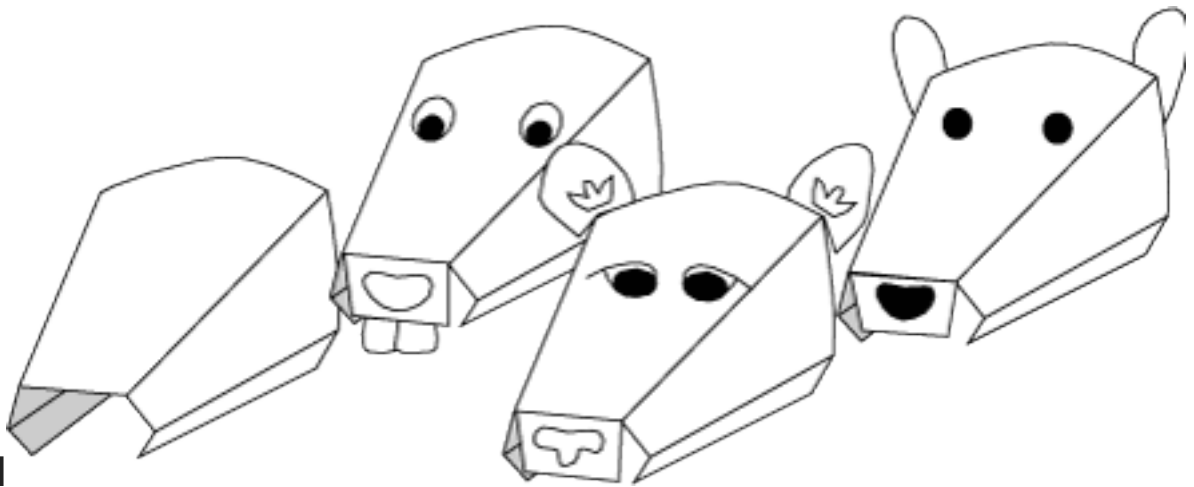
## Step 4: Glue Legs

Each leg will be formed into a tube. One leg will slide onto your index finger. The other goes on your ring finger. The legs need to fit your fingers. Wrap the leg around your finger to see how much overlap is needed, then glue.

Put glue on the back of the leg along one of the short sides. Form a tube and press along the glued edge.

**Tip:** You may find it easier to use tape. Wrap the leg around your finger and tape it while it is on your finger.

## Step 5: Fold

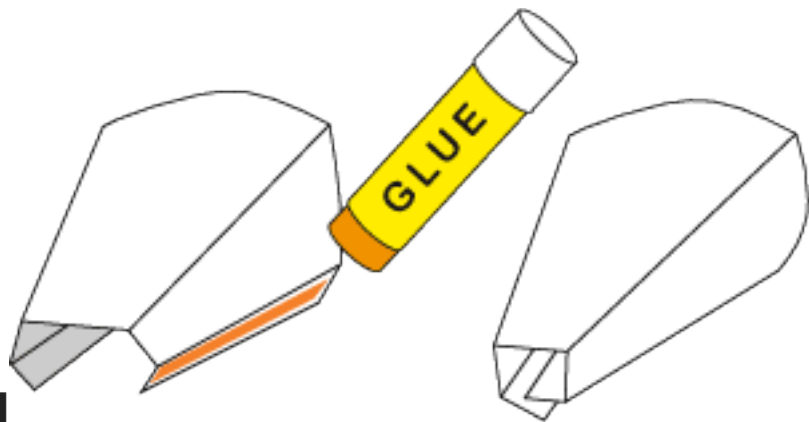


### Head

There are four lines that run from the nose to the top of the head. Make a mountain fold on each of these lines.

Fold the nose down on each puppet. On the lion and the bighorn sheep, fold the ears up.

**Tip:** You can use tape in place of the glue.



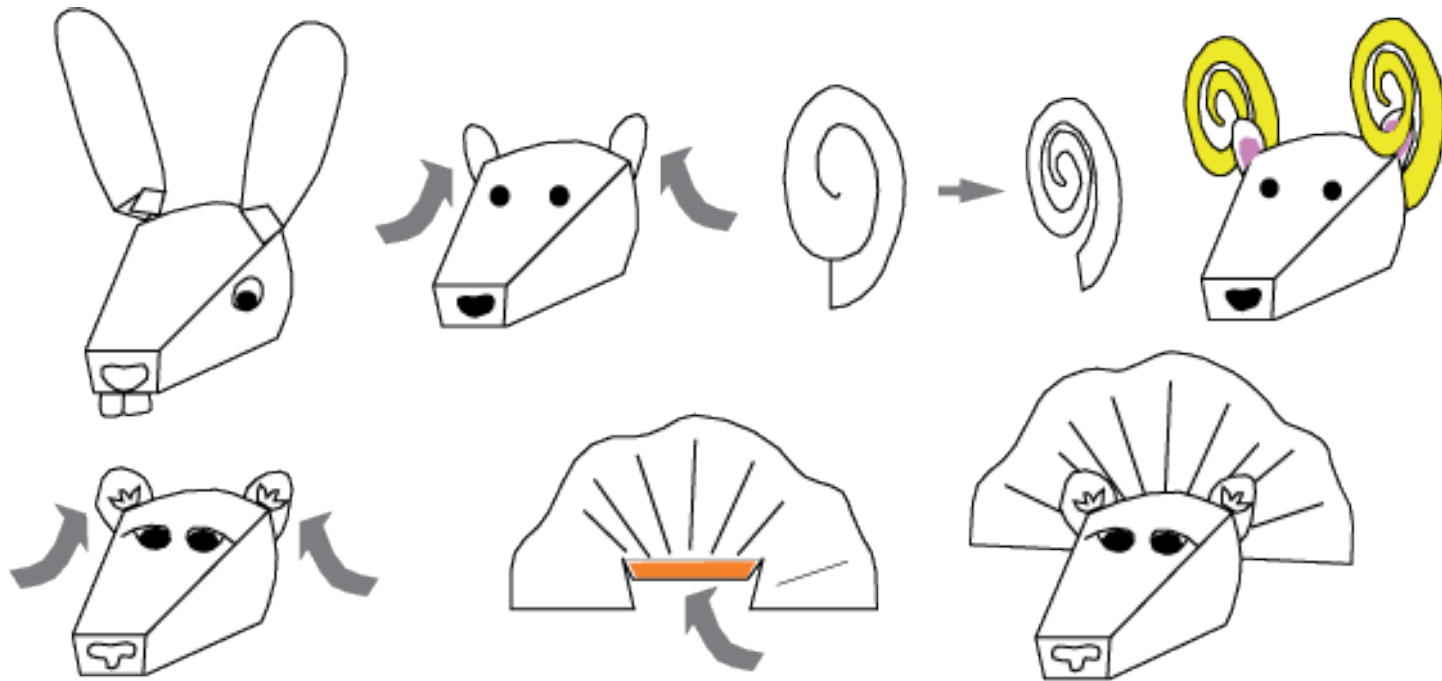
## Step 6: Glue Head

Put glue along the back of one of the folded edges. Form the head shape and press the two bottom edges together.

## Step 7: Finish Head

**Rabbit:** Fold the nose and teeth down. Fold the glue tab up on each ear and cut each tab in half on the center line. Glue the tab halves together—one on top of the other. Glue each ear to the head.

**Tip:** Use colored pencils or markers to add details to your puppets. Brown lines were drawn on these horns to make them more like horns in nature. (Did you notice that the sheep's hooves are cut to points?)



**Bighorn sheep:** Fold the nose down and the ears up. Cut the spiral on each horn. Put glue on the base of each horn. Glue the horns inside the head below the ears.

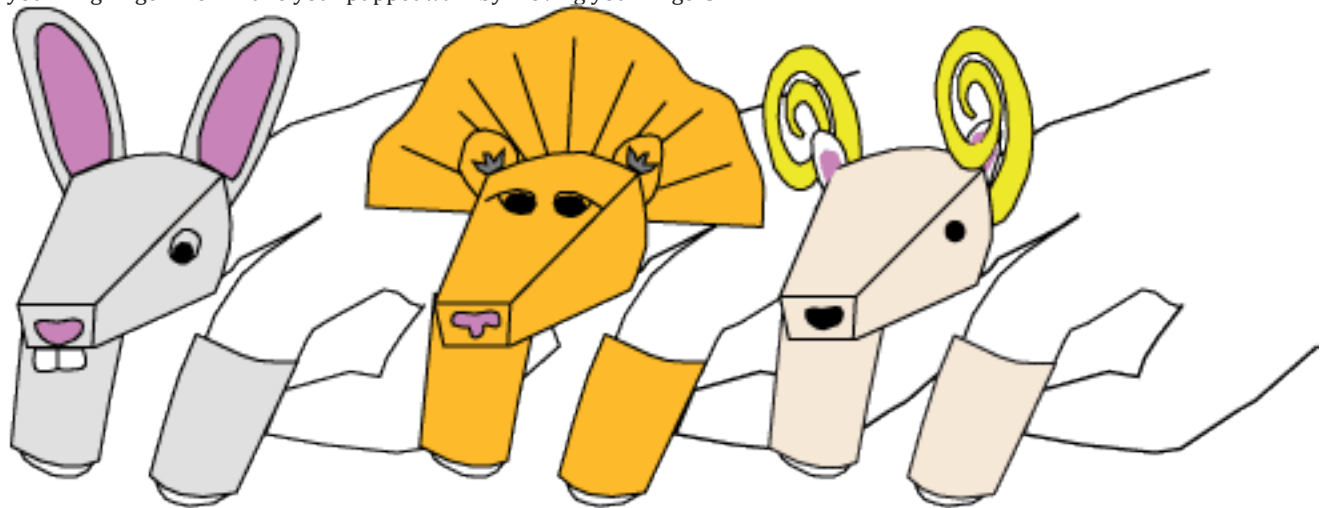
**Lion:** Fold the nose down and the ears up. Cut the sides of the glue tab on the mane. Fold the glue tab up and put glue on it. Glue it inside the head with the tab.

**Tip:** You can give the horns and mane more shape by curling them over a pencil with your fingers.

**Tip:** Your puppets can have four legs. Just make leg coverings for your thumb and little finger. Now you can have your puppets walk on four legs.

## Step 8: Put Puppet on Fingers

Bring your puppet to life by putting the head on your middle finger. Put one leg on your index finger, and put the other leg on your ring finger. Now make your puppet *walk* by moving your fingers.



**Tip:** If the head won't stay on your finger, stuff some tissue around your finger.

**Tip:** If you want to hide your hand, put on a glove or drape a cloth over your hand. Try to use colors that match the puppet. Think of what your puppets will do. Where does your play take place? Write down what the puppets will say and figure out how they will move. Will more than two puppets be on stage at once? Do you need a friend to help? Rehearse your play a few times, and then perform it for family and friends. **That's it! You are ready to put on a play!**

# Pattern for Three-Finger Bighorn Sheep Puppet

How to Make: <http://www.auntannie.com/Puppets/ThreeFinger>

