

Make a puppet

by Jackie Holderness & Annie Hughes

Level 3 • Elementary

Age: Primary (6–11)

Language aims: To make a puppet; to use language for parts of the body

Time: 30–35 minutes

Student grouping: Individuals, whole class, small groups

Materials: One copy of the worksheet per student; a ready-made jointed puppet and a puppet cut out but not assembled; multiple pairs of scissors; multiple hole punches; 13 tags, pieces of string or paper fasteners per student; colouring pens or pencils; some pictures of sports, e.g. *tennis, football, swimming, netball, baseball, volleyball*

Language focus: *Head, body, legs, arms, foot, hands, face; football, tennis, swimming, netball, baseball, volleyball; joint, neck, shoulder, elbow, wrist, hip, knee, ankle*

Procedure

Step 1

Show the children your puppet and explain that they are going to make a jointed puppet. Show the joints on the ready-made puppet and explain that joints help parts of our bodies move, showing them what you mean. Introduce *neck, shoulder, elbow, wrist, knee* and *ankle*.

Step 2

Give each child a copy of the worksheet and tell them to cut out the parts of the puppet carefully.

Step 3

Give the children the tags or string for each joint, 13 per student. Then, with your unassembled puppet, show the children how to 'joint' the puppet. Each joint should be hole-punched and then the string or tag used to connect them. Children make their puppets.

Step 4

When all the puppets are finished, hold yours up. Move a part of the body, for example the arm, hand or foot and ask 'What's this?' The children should answer 'It's a/an ...'

Step 5

Now point to the joints and ask the class to name them.

Step 6

Tell the children to hold up their puppets and move different parts of the body as you call them out – head, leg, etc. Let the children take it in turns to call out a different part of the body.

Step 7

Using the pictures of the sports you prepared, teach the names for them.

Step 8

Now, using your puppet to demonstrate, say a sport and ask the children to move their puppets as though they were playing that sport. For example, if you say 'tennis', they should bend one elbow and put the arm in the air then bring it down quickly, like a serve in tennis. Do this with all the sports, and let individual children call out a sport – all the children should do this at least once. It doesn't matter if a sport is repeated. Now let the children play this game in groups of four for a few minutes.

Step 9

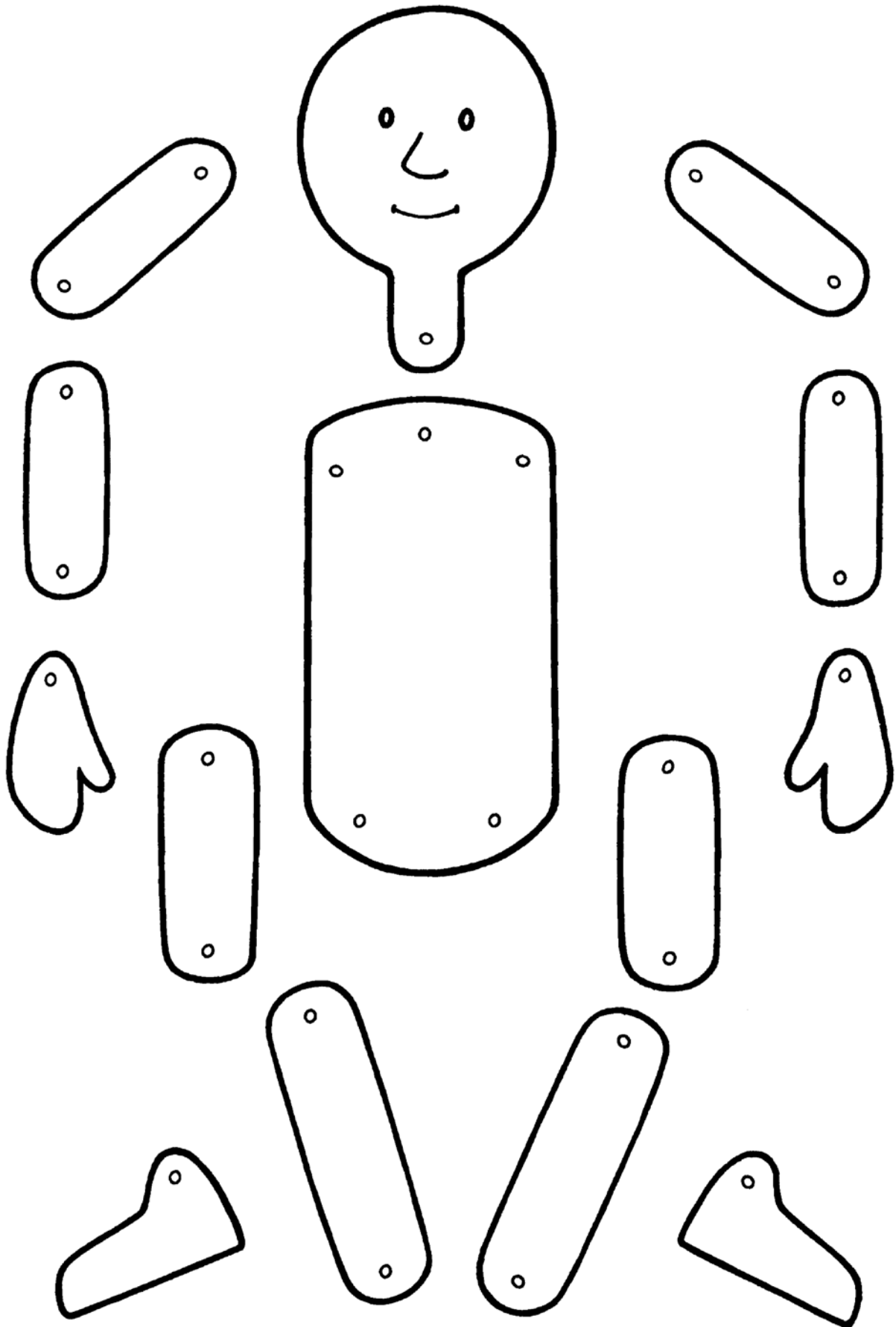
Children colour in the puppets at home or in class. The puppets can be kept in English books or folders for future use.

Follow-up activity

Create a display for each of the sports.

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WORKSHEET