Oriental Museum
Durham University

Super Shadow Puppets

Gather these items

- A box, such as a cereal or shoe box
- Scissors
- Tape and split pins
- Thin white paper, or tracing paper
- Straws or lollipop sticks
- A torch or lamp

Assemble the theatre

1 Tape the box up so that it is sturdy and closed.

2 Draw a rectangle 2-3 cm away from the edges of the large faces of the box on both sides and cut them both out.

3 Tape the piece of white paper or tracing paper over **one** of the rectangles. The other side is for the puppet master!

Puppet Master Side

Audience Side

Make the puppets!

1. Print out the puppets on the next page paper or card or draw your own puppets and cut them out.

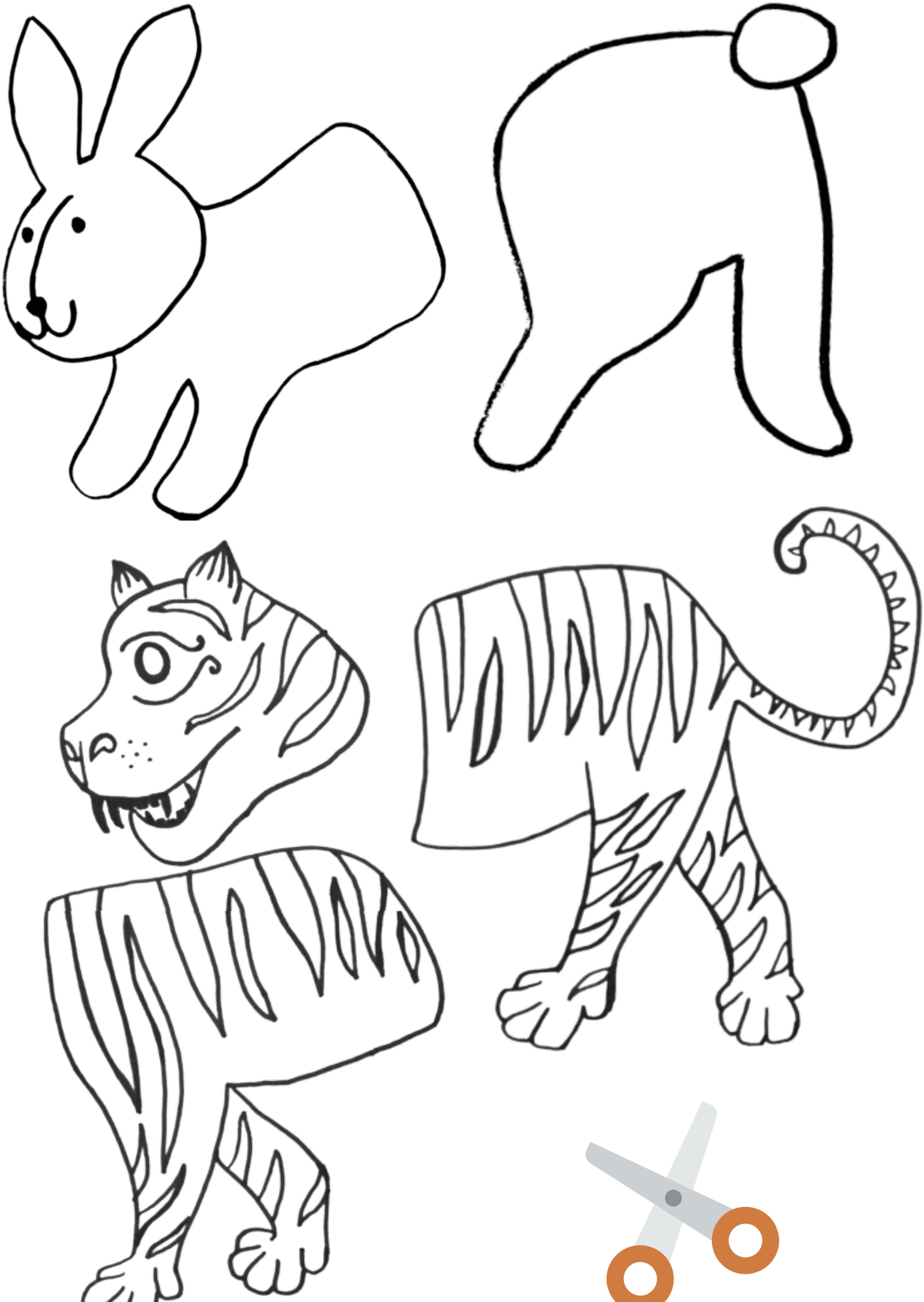
2. Decorate the pieces as colourfully as you can. You can collage, draw patterns or colour them in.

3. Use split pins to join the pieces together and tape lollipop or thin strips of card onto the back of the head and the tail end.

4. Now you should be able to make your puppets move!

This is a Chinese shadow puppet from Durham University's Oriental Museum. It is about 100 years old.

The puppet is a old man with a beard and a a fabulous green hat.

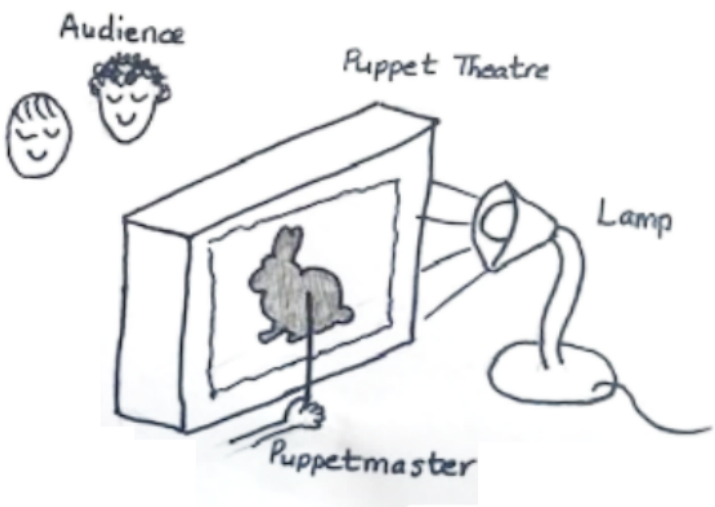


Always ask for an adult's help when using scissors or split pins.

Showtime!

Decide which story you would like to tell in your show, using the puppets to animate a cast.

Set up your room as below - the audience on one side of the theatre, the lamp on the other side.



We'd love to see your show. With parental help, email us photographs to 4Schools@durham.ac.uk

According to legend, when Emperor Wu's wife died, he became very sad and beyond consolation. One day his ministers saw the shadows of children playing outside. It gave them an idea! They made a puppet of the Emperor's wife's image, making him happy again.