



A PUPPET PARTY!

4-H Clothing Lesson

USE A SEWING MACHINE TO MAKE A PUPPET

Project Skills:

Learn to lay out a pattern and sew with sewing machine.

Life Skills:

Planning and Organizing
WI Academic Standards: Family and Consumer Education F.4.
Learning to Learn

Time:

30-35 minutes

Supplies:

- 1 threaded sewing machine for each 2-4 youth
- 1 *Puppet Pattern Sheet* per youth
- 16"x9" or larger piece of fabric (denim, felt, burlap) per youth
- 1 pair of scissors per youth
- Decorating items such as:
 - Scrap felt
 - Markers
 - Pipe Cleaners
 - Buttons
 - Fabric glue
 - Googly eyes
 - Transparent tape
 - Anything else you want such as glitter or sequins!

Getting Ready:

- Make enough copies of the *Puppet Pattern Sheet* for each youth.
- Familiarize yourself with the safe, basic operation of the sewing machines youth will be using.

Adapted from 4-H Fun with Clothes, Lesson 1 – Activity 12 (IFAS Pub. #SPCCL20), pages 30-31.

WHAT TO DO

Cut out the Puppet Pattern

1. Provide a *Puppet Pattern Sheet* for each youth. Then have youth follow these directions:
2. Cut the pattern out.
3. Fold a piece of fabric in half the long way.
4. Pin the pattern to the fabric and cut out the pattern.
5. Remove the pattern and pin sides of fabric together. Leave the bottom unpinned.

Demonstrate sewing machine instructions:

1. Turn the balance wheel toward you until the needle is up and out of the throat plate. Raise the presser foot.
2. Move the fabric under the presser foot to the point where you want to begin sewing. Turn the balance wheel forward to move the needle down into the fabric, ¼ inch from the edge and at the bottom side of the puppet.
3. Line up the puppet so that you will stitch ¼ inch from the edge of your fabric. Lower the presser foot to hold the fabric in place.
4. Remind the youth to always keep their fingers away from the sewing area.
5. Start the machine; slowly stitch around the pattern, ¼ inch from the edge. Carefully guide the fabric as you go. Keep stitching until you have sewn all sides except the bottom. Make sure to leave the bottom open!
6. Turn the balance wheel toward you until the needle is up and out of the throat plate. Raise the presser foot.
7. Remove the fabric and cut the bobbin thread.

Sew the puppet

1. Divide the youth into groups 2-4 youth per sewing machine
2. Make sure youth can reach the foot controls of the sewing machines. You may need to tape the foot control to a box under the table.
3. Have youth follow the step by step instructions above.
4. Make certain that everyone understands and successfully completes each step.
5. Help any youth that is having problems.

Decorate your Puppet

1. Turn the fabric right-side out.
2. Use decorating supplies and fabric glue to decorate the puppet.

Congratulate all the youth. Encourage youth to take their puppet home and present a puppet play for their friends, parent(s) or guardian(s).

TALK IT OVER

Try to get each youth to express his or her feelings and experiences.

Reflect:

- What was the hardest part about making your party puppet?
- Why did you choose the decorations to finish your puppet?

Apply:

- What other things could you use a sewing machine to make?
- Why do you think that most of your clothes are made on a sewing machine?



Puppet Pattern

