

# RAFT IDEAS

**Topics:** Manual Dexterity,  
Creative Expression

## Materials List

- ✓ Compact disc
- ✓ 2 5-gallon bottle caps or equivalent [~5 cm (2") in diameter]
- ✓ 1 plastic cup lid, ~8cm (~3") or equivalent
- ✓ 3 2.5 cm (1") wide pieces of accordion window shade material
- ✓ Mylar strips, paper, or feathers
- ✓ 2 Pony beads
- ✓ 1 very small plastic cone for beak
- ✓ 2 large craft sticks or equivalent
- ✓ Thread or string
- ✓ Glue (hot or white)

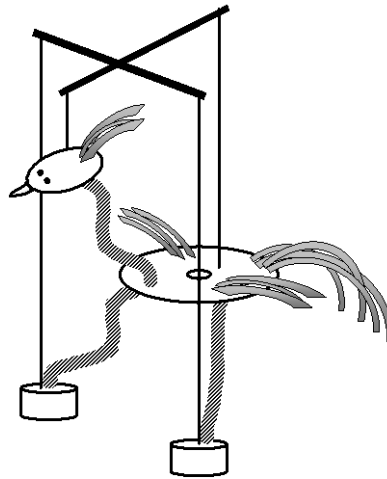
This activity can be used to support the teaching of:

- Convey meaning through presentation of artistic work (National Theatre Arts Standards: Performing, Grades K-12)



# Flashy Phoenix

## Creating a Bird Puppet from Reborn Materials



Marionettes are puppets controlled by strings from above. This activity helps you create a simple marionette puppet in the shape of a bird.

**Assembly** (Note: Younger student will need help from an adult)

1. Glue two of the pieces of window shade to one side of the CD (the body) such that they can stretch out to become the legs, and glue the remaining piece to the other side for the neck.
2. Glue the cup lid onto the other end of the neck, and glue the 5-gallon bottle caps, with protruding tab cut off, to the ends of the legs for feet.
3. Glue the two sticks together to form a "t" or "x" shape.
4. Attach strings to the ends of the four "arms" of the sticks. Make the string on the short arm (which controls the head) ~20 cm (8"), the string on the long arm ~40 cm (16"), for the body, and the other two strings ~60 cm (24") for the feet. The lengths of the strings may need to be increased for taller students.
5. Glue the other ends of the strings to the approximate centers of the head, body, and feet (this may need to be adjusted to get the desired balance).
6. Decorate the puppet with Mylar strips (or other) for wings, crest, and tail. Glue the small cone onto the head for the beak, and glue on the beads for eyes.

## To Do and Notice

1. Play with the puppet to learn how to control it. Can you make it walk?
2. Put on a puppet show of your own story or a traditional tale.

## The Content Behind the Activity

Various types of puppets have provided entertainment and education for centuries. They are created and used worldwide, such as in Indonesia, Europe and parts of Africa, for entertainment, historical or religious instruction, as well as artistic and cultural expression.

## Taking it Further

- Create marionettes in different shapes, such as various animals or people.
- Make a more complicated marionette with four limbs to control.

**Web Resources** (Visit [www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=159](http://www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=159) for more resources!)