

RAFT IDEAS

Topics: 3-Dimensional Art Forms, Sculpture

Materials List

- ✓ Foam dowels
- ✓ Small rubber bands or other fasteners (tape, glue, etc.)
- ✓ Small sphere shaped objects (marbles, wood spheres, rubber balls, Styrofoam balls, etc.)
- ✓ Optional: miscellaneous art materials

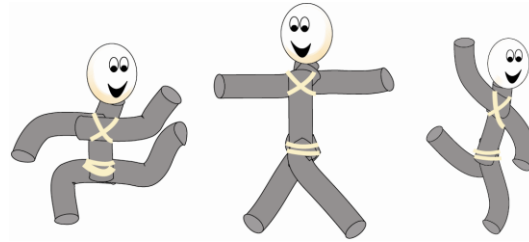
This activity can be used to teach:

- Experiment w/ forms, structures & materials (National Visual Arts Standards: Creating, Grades K-8)



Foam Dowel People

These miniature dolls have big attitudes



These easy to make dolls have many uses beyond just art! Calling them action figures will increase the likelihood that boys will play with them.

To Do and Notice

1. Attach foam dowel sections together with rubber bands, tape, or glue to form arms, legs, and torso sections.
2. Attach a spherical object to represent the head (with glue or tape)
3. Optional: Decorate and embellish doll as desired

The Content Behind the Activity

Societies since prehistoric times have created dolls and small, human forms from any available materials. Doll artifacts made from wood and pottery have been found in Egyptian tombs and date back to 2000 B.C. The oldest surviving doll is an alabaster doll with movable arms from the Babylonian period. As people discovered new materials and techniques, they applied these advances to doll manufacturing. While clay, fur, and wood were common in ancient dolls, wood pulp and wax were used in the 17th and 18th centuries. In the 20th century, the science of synthetic materials paved the way for the manufacturing of dolls made of plastic, vinyl, rubber, and foam rubber. In 1964, Hasbro toys coined the term "action figure". Up until this time, dolls had been marketed more of a toy for girls; but with the manufacture and sale of G.I. Joe by Hasbro, a new trend in action figures began that still is a major part of the billion dollar doll industry today.

Taking it Further

- **Counting, Sorting, and Matching** -- Have the students sort dolls according to certain characteristics and then count the number of dolls with those characteristics
- **Multicultural** – Provide extra materials for students to give the dolls multicultural costumes.
- **Proportions and Scale** – Have students calculate the scale of the dolls and even create a dollhouse at the correct scale for the dolls.
- **Magnets** – Attach magnets to the dolls.
- **Chore chart for non-readers:** Each child can be assigned a doll that they can recognize. Use the doll to assign each child to a daily classroom chore, or chart that child's progress to a goal. .
- **Photos** of the child's head can be attached for the heads of the dolls.
- **Game pieces** – Create small stands for the dolls and use the dolls as game pieces.

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=58 for more resources!)