



STUDIO SPARKS KIT

Wood Peg People

4-H PROJECT AREA: 4-H VISUAL ARTS THREE DIMENSIONAL/MIXED MEDIA

Wooden peg people, simple figurines shaped like pegs, have roots in 18th-century Europe, where they were crafted by rural artisans as affordable and durable toys. Early peg dolls were often hand-carved from wood, with conical or cylindrical shapes resembling clothespins, and dressed in scraps of fabric. Popular among children for their versatility and affordability, these dolls became cherished tools for imaginative play. Over time, they evolved into folk art pieces, hand-painted with intricate details, reflecting the creativity of their makers.

In the mid-20th century, peg people gained broader appeal as educational toys, featuring simplified designs with painted faces and clothing. Their eco-friendly, open-ended nature has made them a favorite in modern crafting, Waldorf education, and Montessori classrooms. Today, peg people are embraced by artists and DIY enthusiasts for their endless customization possibilities, serving as toys, wedding cake toppers, holiday ornaments, and storytelling tools.



STEP 1

Begin by creating hair, selecting the type of style and color your doll will have. This may be sideswept, straight bangs, choppy bangs, wavy swoop, center part, pixie, or curly.



Supplies

- Wood peg people - can be found at craft stores or online
- Acrylic Paint
- Brushes
- Decoupage medium (sealant)
- Clear hairtie
- Crepe streamer
- Ruler
- Scissors



STEP 2

Add simple details, with a fine paintbrush, by placing dots for eyes and cheeks.



STEP 3

This example is of a doll wearing a dress. Paint a dress shape on the wood peg in a corresponding color to your crepe paper. Leave about 1/2" unpainted at the bottom.



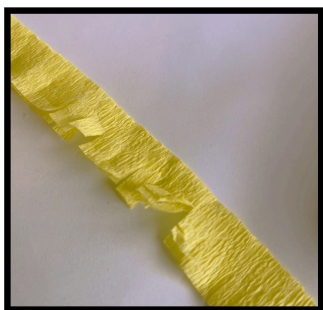
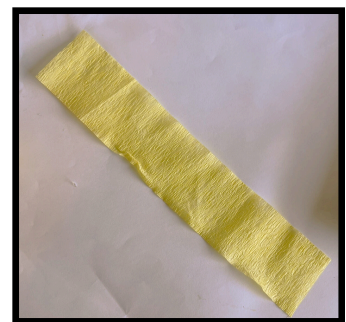
STEP 4

Let the paint dry before sealing with your decoupage medium



STEP 5

With your crepe paper, with your ruler, cut about 8.25" in length. If you do not have access to a ruler, measure a little less than the long edge of this page.



STEP 6

Carefully, fold the paper in half, hot dog style. Cut slits towards the center fold, leaving space to keep the streamer intact. Continue cutting about .25" apart.

STEP 7

When done, unfold the crepe paper and wrap the doll's body with the streamer and place a small, clear rubberband on the center.



STEP 8

Fluff and style as you like. Try out other styles and designs of people, or even get creative by turning your wood peg people into other objects.

REFLECTION

- What materials or techniques did you enjoy using the most? Why?
- How does your peg person reflect your personality or a story you wanted to tell?
- If you could add more detail to your peg person, what would it be?
- What new skills or techniques did you learn during this project?
- Did you share ideas with others during the project? How did that influence your work?
- What are you most proud of your final design?
- How did this project make you feel about your creativity or artistic ability?

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