

OLD-FASHIONED FINGER DOLLS

Dolls and puppets have been popular with children and adults for centuries. In earlier times they were usually handmade, either by a child or by his or her friends or relatives. Only a wealthy family could afford the luxury of store-bought toys.

Popular one hundred years ago, finger dolls were fashioned by hand or purchased ready-made in shops. You can make one yourself simply by following the directions below. Use the picture given or create your own. Here is how.

YOU WILL NEED:

Scissors
Light cardboard (shirt cardboard works well)
Magic markers, colored pencils, crayons, or paint and brushes
Elastic thread seven inches long
Sewing needle large enough to thread elastic through
Carbon paper
Pencil

Transfer our doll design to a piece of lightweight cardboard. To do this, lay a piece of carbon paper between the picture and the cardboard. The "ink" side of the carbon paper should face the cardboard. Pressing evenly, trace the design with a pencil. The outline and details of the finger doll should now be drawn clearly on your cardboard.

Next, color your picture using markers, pencils or paint. When you are done and your work is dry, carefully cut along the doll's outline and around the "leg holes." Now thread the piece of elastic through the needle. Poke the needle through the waist holes (marked by the two black dots) and tie the two ends together in a knot in the back.

Your doll is ready. Slip your hand through the elastic band. Then place your index and middle fingers through the "leg holes." Your finger doll is now able to walk, run, dance or kick.



You may want to make a pair of shoes for her. If so, cut a pair out of some construction paper, decorate them in any way you want and then put them on your two finger tips.