



Felted Creatures

with Jennifer Ghormley



The Big Idea

Learn how to make your own **unique, creative fabric creature** with felt pieces, or just a few simple fabric items found around the house. No experience necessary, simple sewing techniques will be demonstrated in the video.



You'll Need

- Sheets of felt in a variety of colors OR 'found' fabrics from around the house (old bedsheets, clothes, kitchen towels, etc)
- Embroidery thread OR sewing thread
- Craft needle OR regular sewing needle
- Scissors for cutting paper and fabric/felt
- Sewing pins or paperclips
- Sharpie marker, 8½ x 11 paper, tape
- Optional: buttons, pipe cleaners, or other items for embellishments
- Step-By-Step video tutorial:
www.think360arts.org



The Plan

Step 1 - Draw fun and funky simple 'creature' on a piece of 8½ x 11 paper with a sharpie marker. Keep it simple and try to fill the space of the page.

Step 2 - Make a copy of the design. (You can tape your creature to a window for light-box to trace)

Step 3 - Cut out paper pattern pieces. Use your original drawing for the big general body shapes, and use your second drawing for the small pieces-- 'flaps' for arms, legs, ears, and details like eyes, nose, and mouth. When cutting out small flap pieces, cut out extra length so you can embed it when you sew them with the body.



The Plan cont.

Step 4 - Use sewing pins or paperclips to attach paper-pattern to fabric pieces. For the body of the creature, you will need 2 pieces of felt or fabric (1 front and 1 back).

Step 5 - Appendages like arms, legs, and ears should be simple 'flaps' or shaped pieces of felt/fabric.

Step 6 - Cut out felt or fabric pieces, unpin and separate from paper pattern pieces.

Step 7 - On the front side fabric piece, sew on details like eyeballs, mouth, and/or other embellishments like buttons, snaps, etc.

Step 8 - Pin or paperclip to backside fabric.

Step 9 - Pin or paperclip in flaps - arms / legs / ears, etc.

Step 10 - Thread the needle and start sewing the outline around the creature. Make sure to stitch the flaps in as well.

Step 11 - STOP sewing before you are done, leaving a 2 to 4" opening - stuff creature with plastic grocery bags, then finish sewing so you meet up with the beginning stitching. Be sure to tie a good knot in the thread ends so your creature doesn't fall apart.

Teaching Artist Tip

- When cutting out small flap pieces, cut out extra long so you can embed them when you sew them with the body.
- If your creature will be around small children, babies, or animals, be sure buttons or other small pieces are really well attached, to avoid choking hazards.
- Some pieces and detail elements are just too small to cut and sew (like nostrils or eyebrows). These can be drawn in with a sharpie marker directly onto the fabric, either before or after sewing.

Going Further

- You can create little pockets like for the tooth fairy. Sew onto front or back pieces BEFORE you sew your creature together.
- You can make bigger appendages that are stuffed too. Make these first, but be sure they are relatively flat where they would attach to the body of the creature.
- After you make your first one and get your systems down, make a whole family of these creatures in a range of sizes - XL, L, M, S, XS

