

# How to Build Your Own Theatre!



The Project has been generously supported by HOLY TRINITY SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
(part of The Highland Perthshire Linked Charge) Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane.

## Hello, my name is Elizabeth.

I'm the Artistic Director of Pitlochry Festival Theatre. It is very sad that we can't welcome you to the Theatre this summer but we wanted to find a way to make sure you could still visit us somehow... So I came up with the idea that you could build your own theatre at home – in the Garden or in your living room!

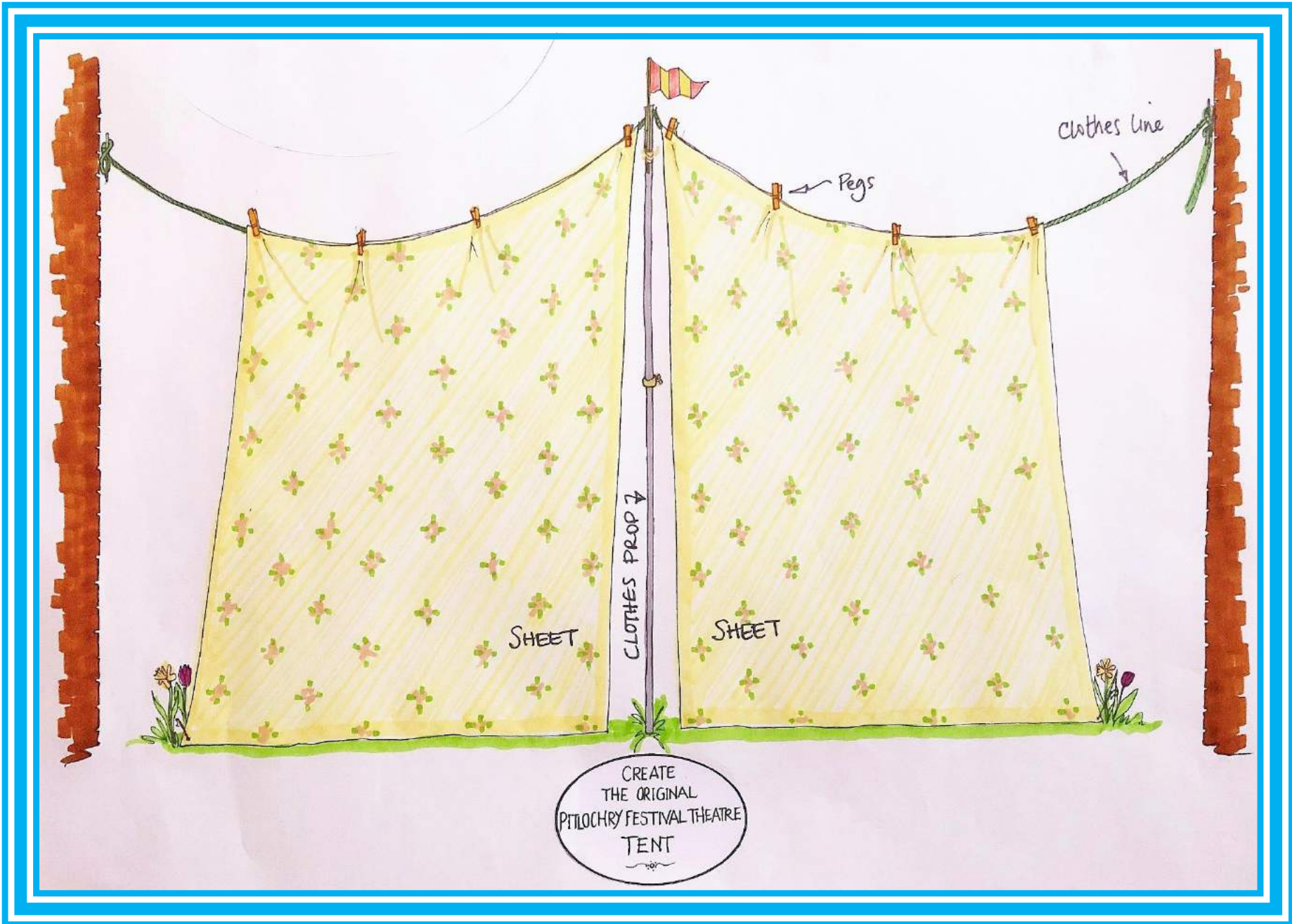
We thought you might need some help so we've made you this book. It is a fully illustrated guide of How to Build Your Own Theatre. It has been created by me and some other wonderful Pitlochry Festival Theatre artists – Barbara Hockaday, Adrian Rees and Trudy Rees-Marklew. It includes instructions of how to build your very own Pitlochry Festival Theatre. Our Theatre originally started in a tent not a building. So I imagined it would be fun for you to get the chance to build the original Festival Theatre. It also includes a story and songs for you to perform together, and how to make the props, costumes and set for the performance!

We can't wait to hear about you've got on. We hope you enjoy making theatre at home!

Stay safe! Lots of love,

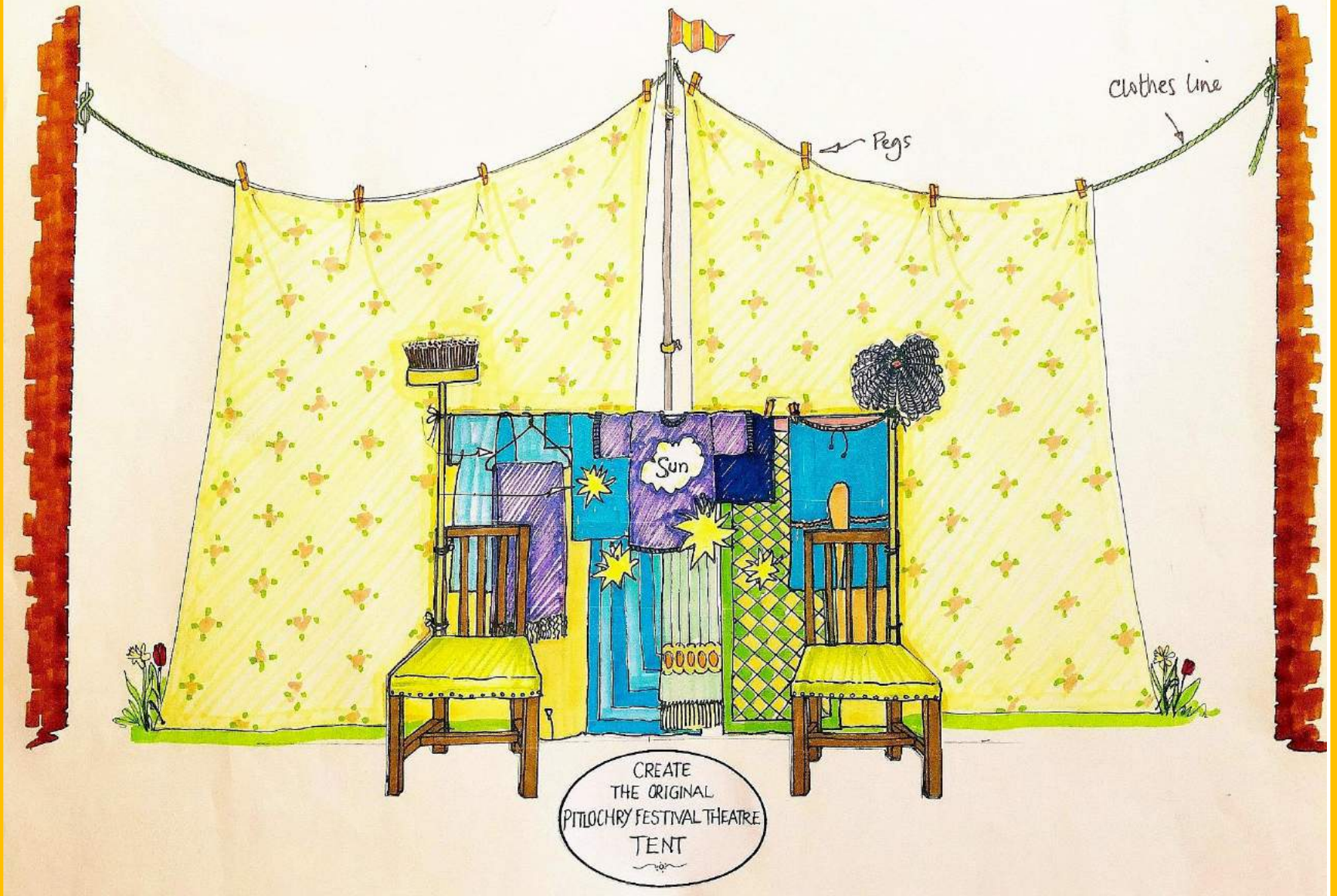
Elizabeth x





CREATE  
THE ORIGINAL  
PITOCHRY FESTIVAL THEATRE  
TENT



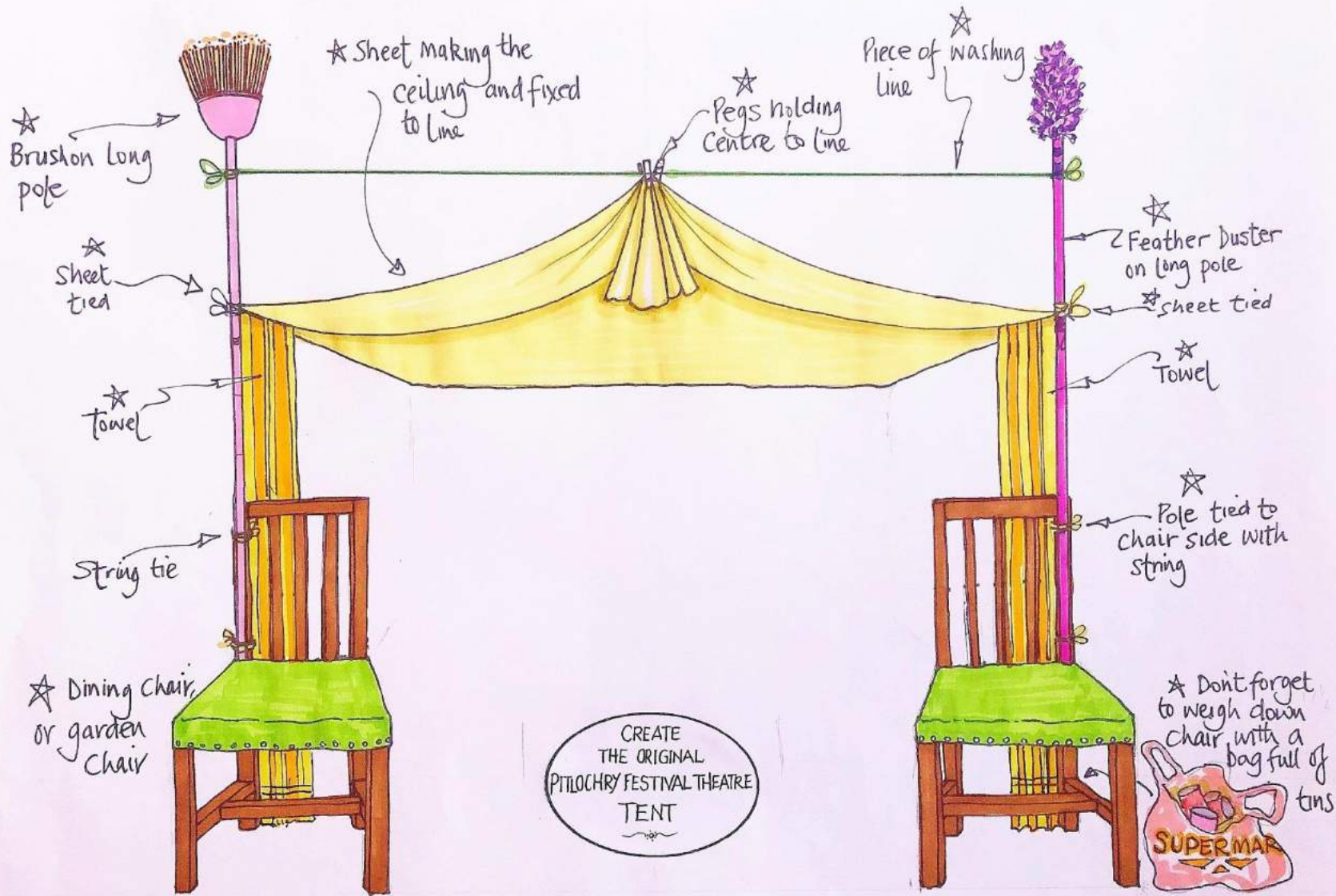


clothes line

Pegs

CREATE  
THE ORIGINAL  
PITLOCHRY FESTIVAL THEATRE  
TENT





CREATE  
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 PITLOCHRY FESTIVAL THEATRE  
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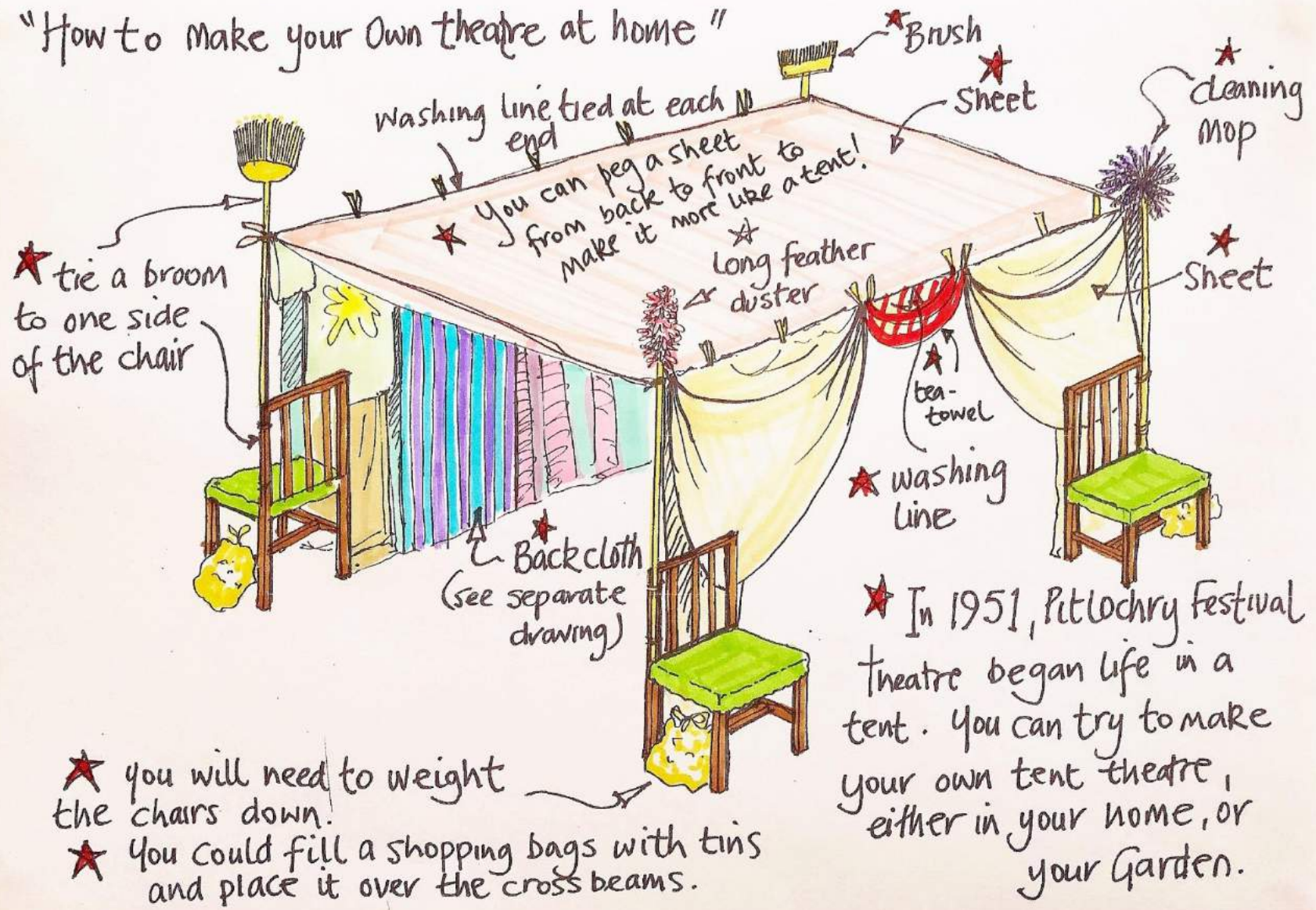




CREATE  
THE ORIGINAL  
PTILOCHRY FESTIVAL THEATRE  
TENT



# "How to make your own theatre at home"



★ In 1951, Pitlochry Festival Theatre began life in a tent. You can try to make your own tent theatre, either in your home, or your Garden.





## How to Make a theatre at Home

- ★ You will need 4 dining chairs, or 4 garden chairs.
- ★ You will also need 4 things with long handles — a mop, a broom, a brush, and a feather duster, or something like that.
- ★ tie one of the long handles to each chair back
- ★ Place two of the chairs side by side, but far apart.
- ★ Weigh them down.
- ★ tie the washing line between the chairs on the long handles.
- ★ hang things on the line to make your back cloth.

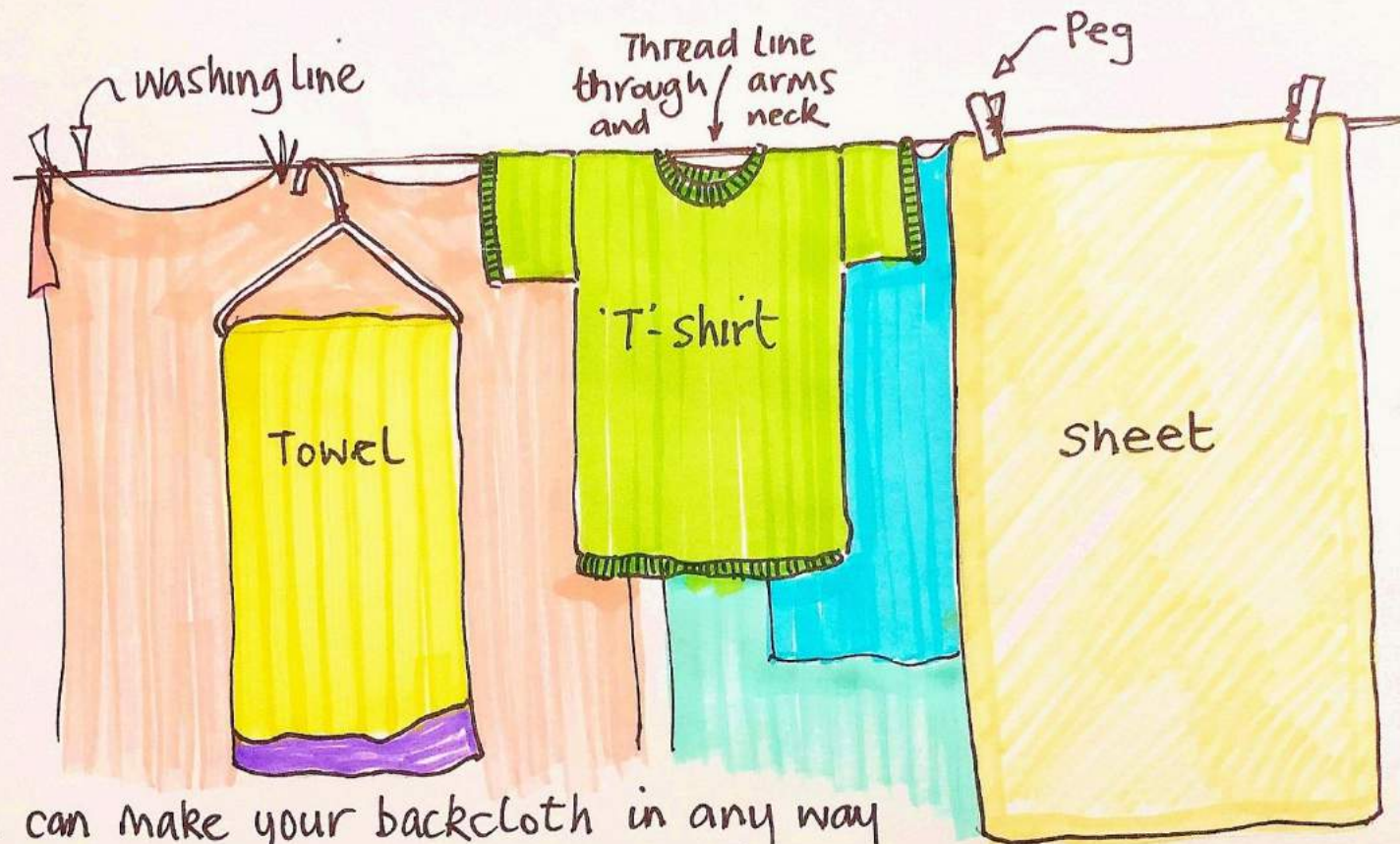




# How to make a Backcloth



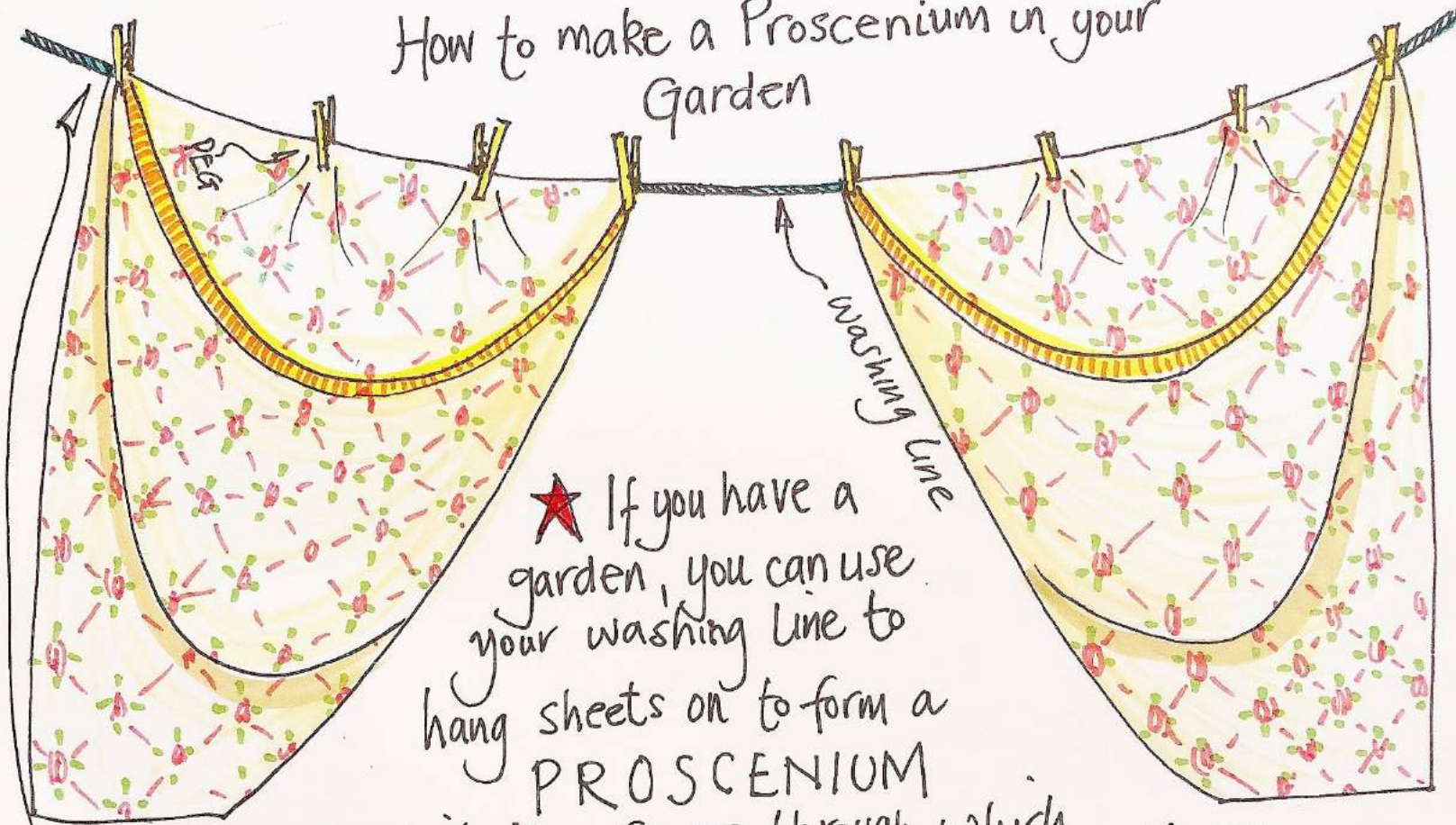
# How to Make a Backcloth



★ You can make your backcloth in any way you want to. You can hang a sheet on the line. You can thread clothes, such as T-shirts onto the line. You can hang towels from coat hangers, or you can do all **3!**



## How to make a Proscenium in your Garden



★ Scoop up a corner to make a curved shape

★ If you have a garden, you can use your washing line to hang sheets on to form a PROSCENIUM

which is a frame through which we look at the scenery on stage  
It also looks like the tent from [1951]

★ Make your back cloth like shown in the other drawing!



A note from our Artistic Director to help you make your plays!



## TOP TIPS FOR MAKERS AT HOME

Hello again! I thought it might be helpful to share some of my top tips with you all, about making plays.

- Be sure to know what everyone needs when you're rehearsing and help them to do their best work.
- Help everyone in the group understand what you're trying to achieve with the play, so you can make it together.
- Try to listen to everyone's opinion and welcome their creativity.
- Try to avoid telling anybody 'what to do' or show 'how to do it' as it can really knock confidence, but help them to express their ideas.
- Work through the play asking questions and encouraging everyone to share their understanding of the facts and events.
- Encourage players to say the words like they're not a script but something they're making up as they go along. The best way to do this is to get them to put the script into their own words.
- Help people to get into character by improvising.
- Try not to tell people where to stand or what they 'should' do. You want to keep the performance spontaneous!
- Help the players get to know each other. Give lots of positive feedback and help everyone feel confident.

**Remember** the most exciting performances happen when performers make work that connects with their thoughts and feelings.

And remember – have fun even when you're working hard!



Here's a story to perform on your stage...

★ ★ STARS ★ ★

Have you got all the things you need to tell our story?

You'll need:

- a star
  - a rocket
  - a favourite teddy or toy
    - a cushion
    - your den,
      - a boat
    - a desert island
- ... and your counting fingers!



Twinkle, twinkle,  
little star

stars  
to  
make!



stars to hold



stars to wear



stars to wave



\* Could be fixed to your set with pegs, or pins

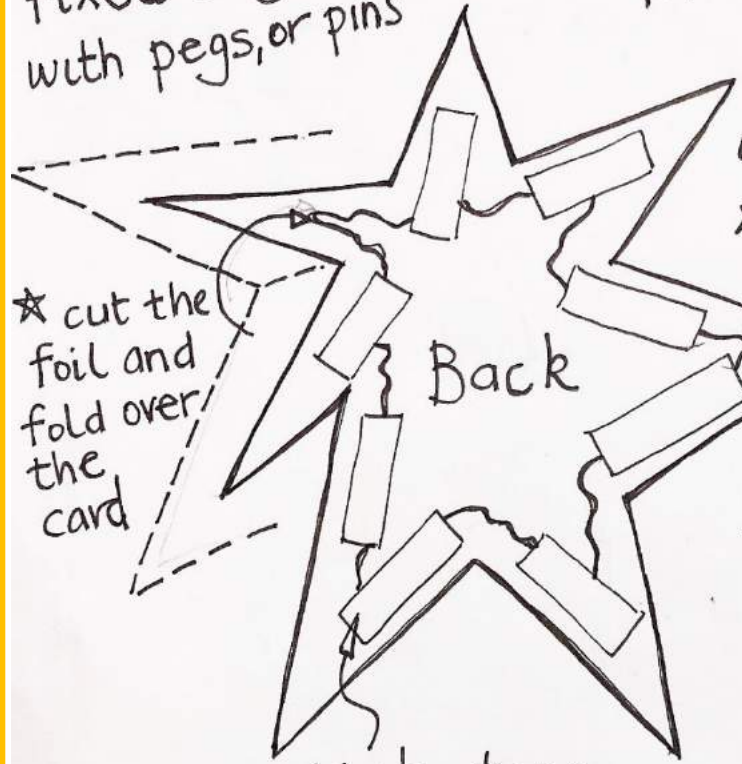
\* draw a star shape on a piece of card - maybe from a cereal packet

\* cut it out with scissors, or ask an adult

\* cover it with silver foil and fix it on the back with sticky tape

\* you can also paint your star any colour

\* cut the foil and fold over the card

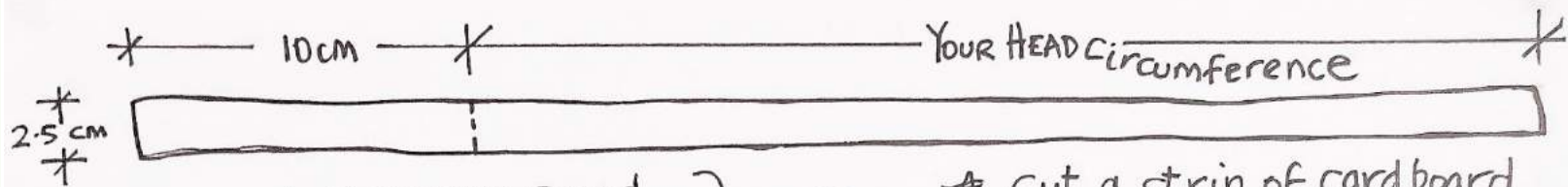


sticky tape



# How to make a STAR

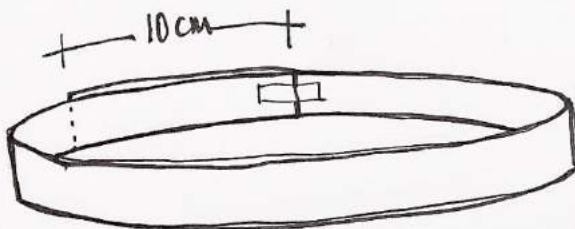




★ measure round your head with a tape measure - ask an adult to help!



★ Cut a strip of cardboard the circumference plus 10cm  
 You could cut up a cereal box and sticky tape them together.  
 ★ the strip should be 2.5cm deep

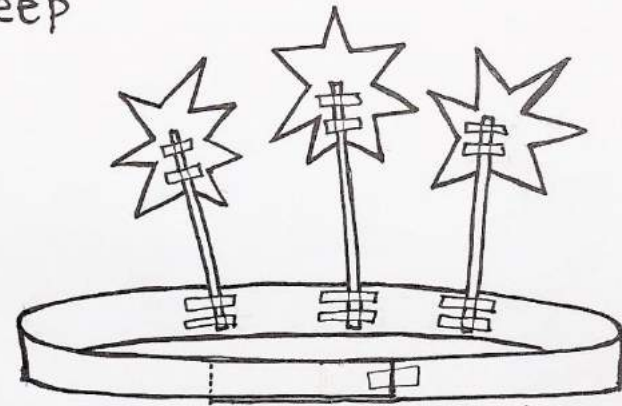


★ Overlap the strip by 10cm and tape, or glue the ends together

★ Check that it fits!

## How to make a HEADBAND

Use this for all headdresses



★ sticky tape the straws with stars on to the inside of the headband





# STARS

A child looked up at a star in the sky,  
Couldn't help but wonder "why oh why?  
How did it get there? What would it say –  
If I could go to visit it, so far away?"



*Twinkle, twinkle little star  
How I wonder what you are  
Up above the world so high  
Like a diamond in the sky  
Twinkle, twinkle little star  
How I wonder what you are*



Soon that star was joined by more  
Not one, not two, not three, not four,  
But all of the night sky filled with light.  
The child wished to go to them with all its might!

*Are you holding your stars up?*



*Twinkle, twinkle little star  
How I wonder what you are  
Up above the world so high  
Like a diamond in the sky  
Twinkle, twinkle little star  
How I wonder what you are*



# Astronauts



space helmet

space helmet



space seat  
made out of  
cushions.



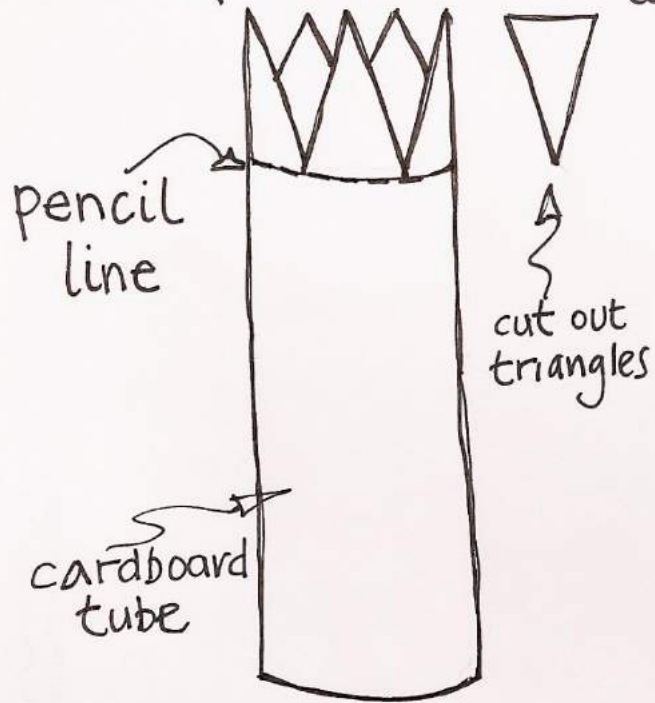
rocket

Bang saucepan with  
a wooden spoon!

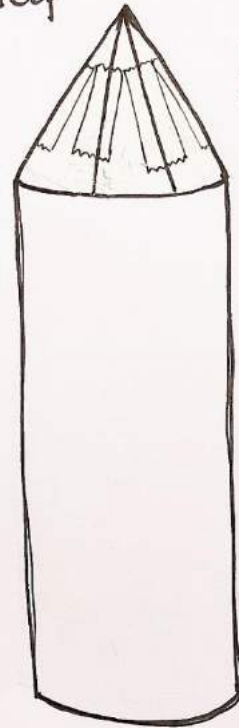
★ Make sure that your "helmet" isn't too tight on your head!  
We wouldn't want it to get stuck! You can also use them as  
musical instruments!



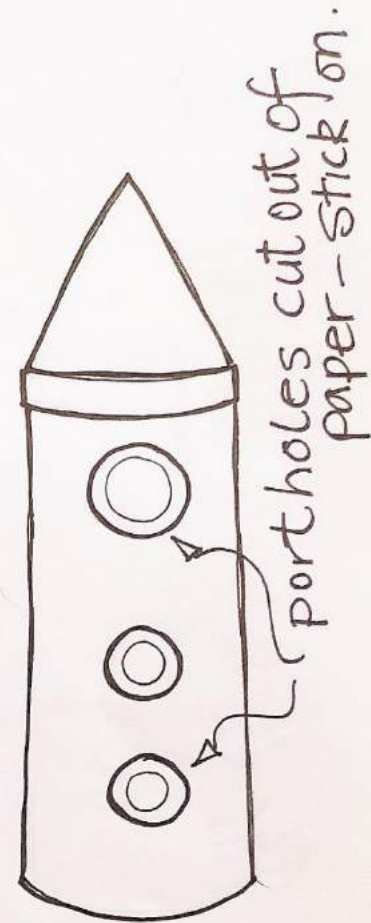
- ★ You will need a cardboard tube
- ★ Mark even triangles round the top
- ★ cut them out - ask an adult to help



- ★ Squeeze the points together and secure with sticky tape



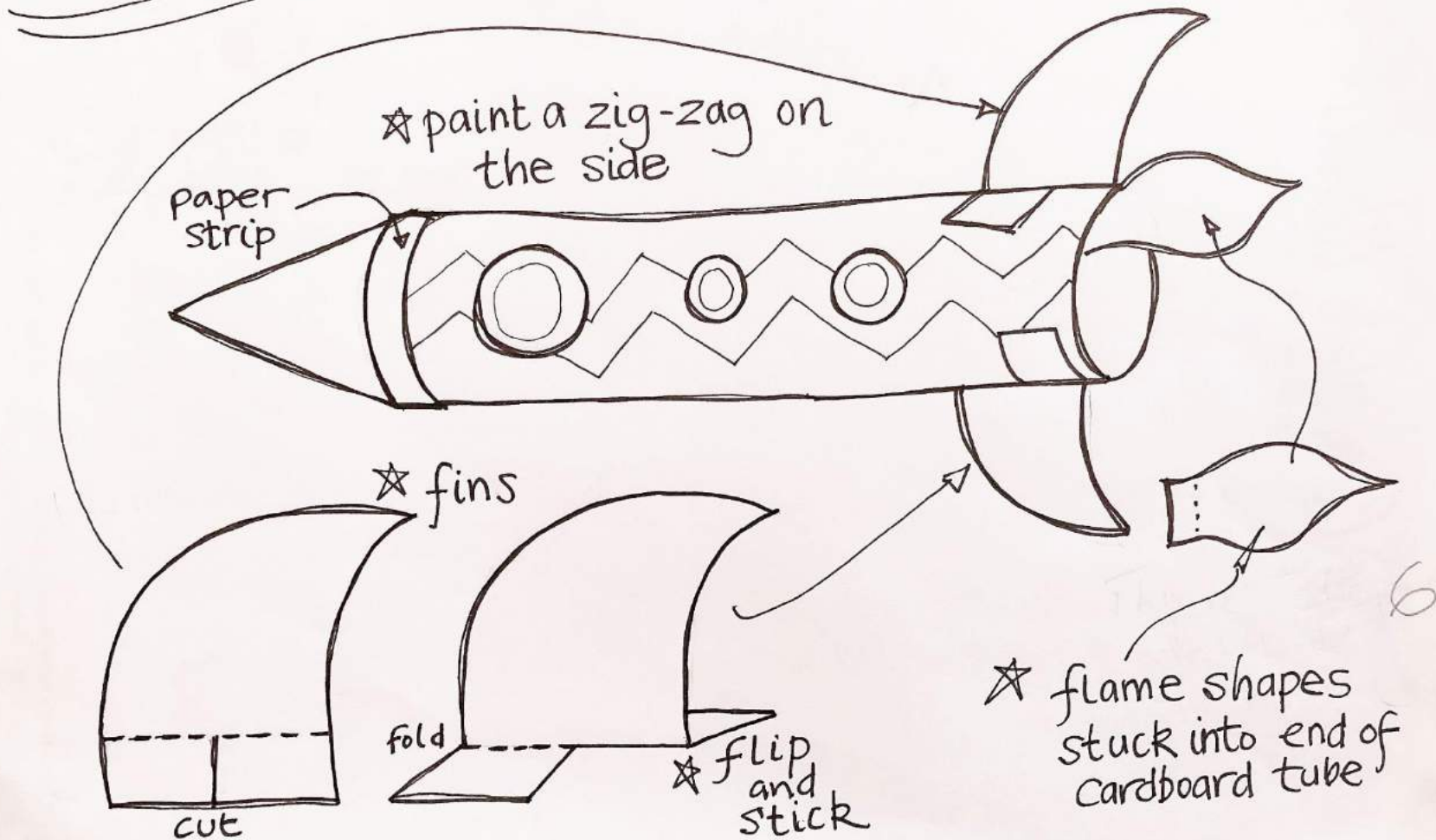
- ★ Cover the point with glue and Coloured paper
- ★ paint the tube's side and glue on port holes

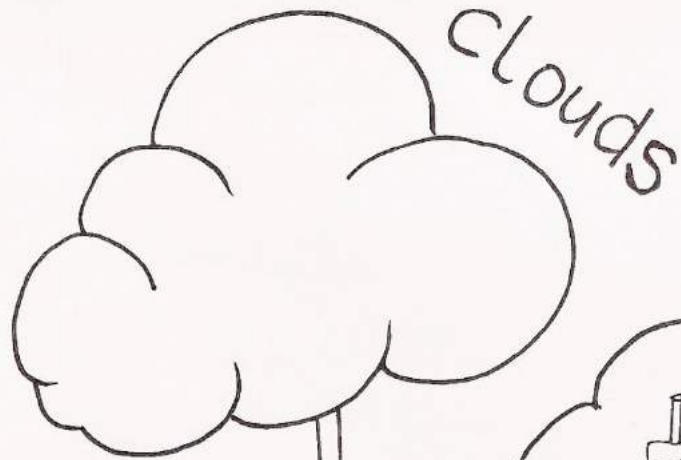


# How to make a rocket - part 1



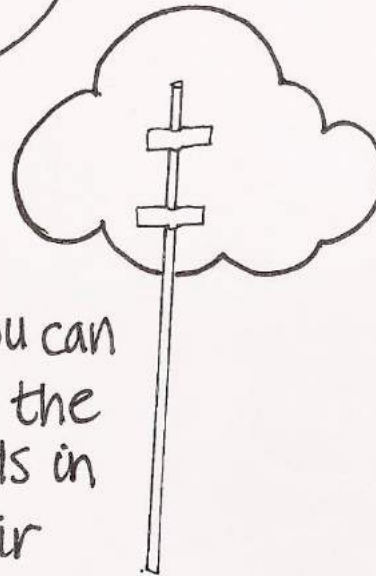
# How to make a rocket ~ part 2





- ★ Draw a cloud shape onto a piece of card
- ★ paint it white
- ★ sticky tape a straw, or a stick to the back.

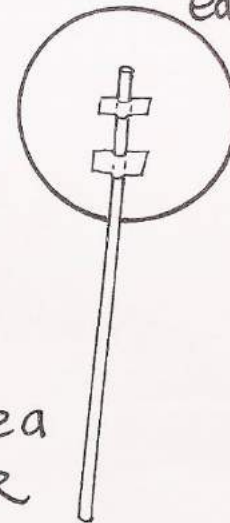
★ you can wave the clouds in the air



## a little earth



- ★ use a plate to draw round on a piece of card
- ★ paint it to look like the earth



★ sticky tape a straw, or stick to the back

- ★ you can use it with the rocket



Up from the bed sprang the child and said,  
"Off on an adventure – better take Ted!  
Climb into the rocket I made today,  
Countdown, then we're off and away!"

Are you coming with us? Then get ready with your rocket:  
COUNTDOWN 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 – BLAST OFF!!

Up through the ceiling, mind your head!  
Up through the roof now, hold tight Ted!!  
Up through the clouds, we must be brave.  
Look back down to the Earth and wave!

Bye, see you soon!



The rocket and the child and Ted and us  
Flew faster than a bicycle, faster than a bus;  
Zoom! Zoom! Loop-the-loop!  
Then SPROING! and TWONG! and SPLANG! and ZHOOP!

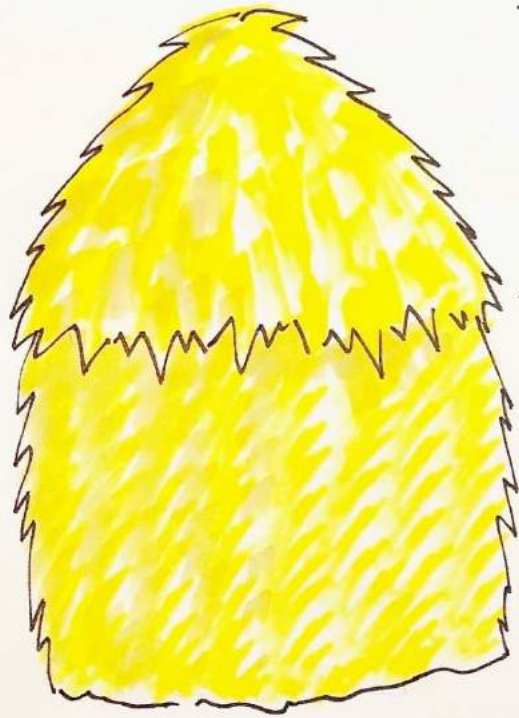
"What was that sound?!" The child cried aloud,  
"I think we're falling back through the clouds!  
Will we land with a bump? Will we come to harm?"  
(tick tock, tick tock.... WOOOAAH!)  
We landed in a haystack on a farm!

Phew! Nice, soft hay like a big outdoor cushion!

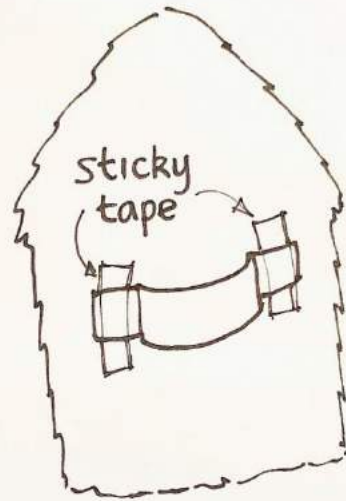




30cm



40cm



★ Don't forget, if you have any ideas of your own for making the things in the story, then that is GREAT!



★ strip of card



★ fold the end in by 2.5cm

Make a Haystack

★ curve the middle section and tape the ends to the back



Ideas for the animals on the farm  
The Farmer



a chicken



a Cow



a duck

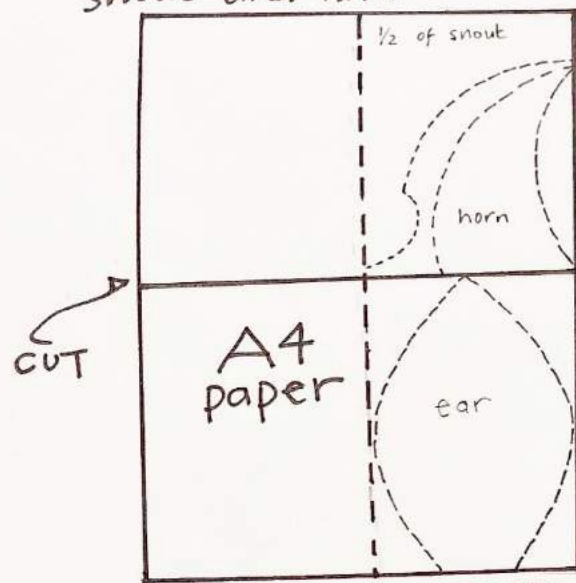


You can make your animal headdress using anything you can find at home!

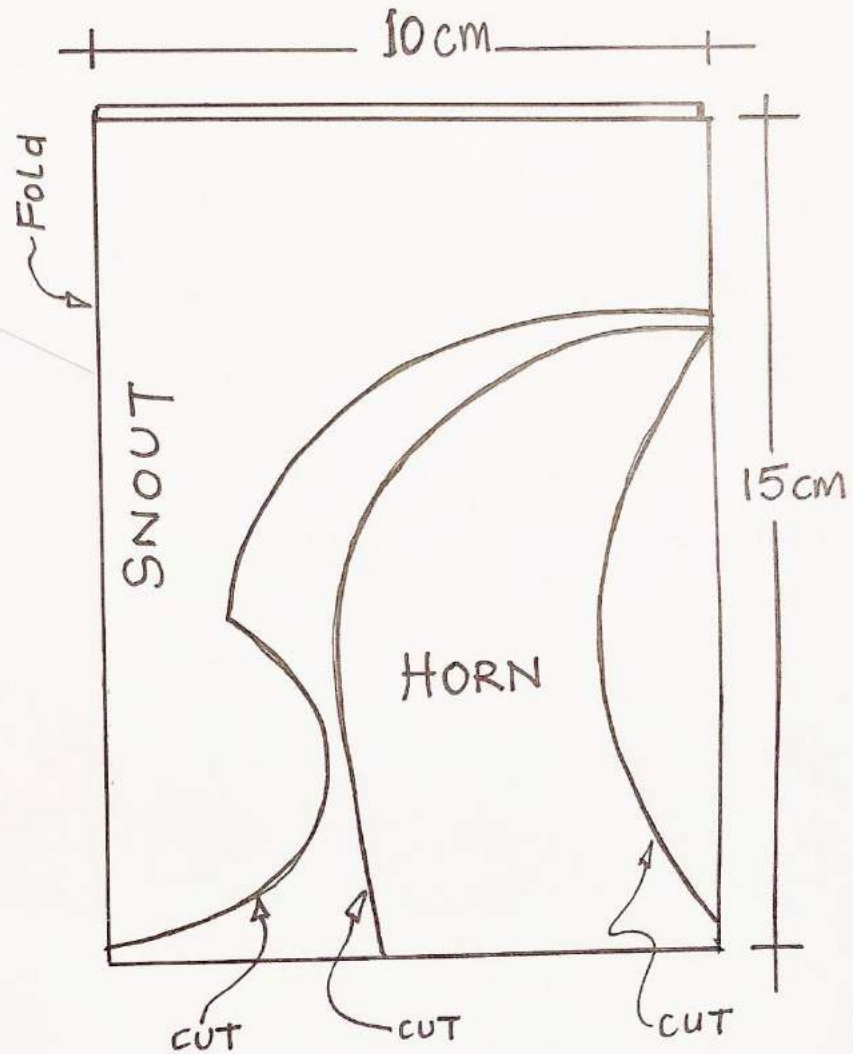


# A Goat # 1

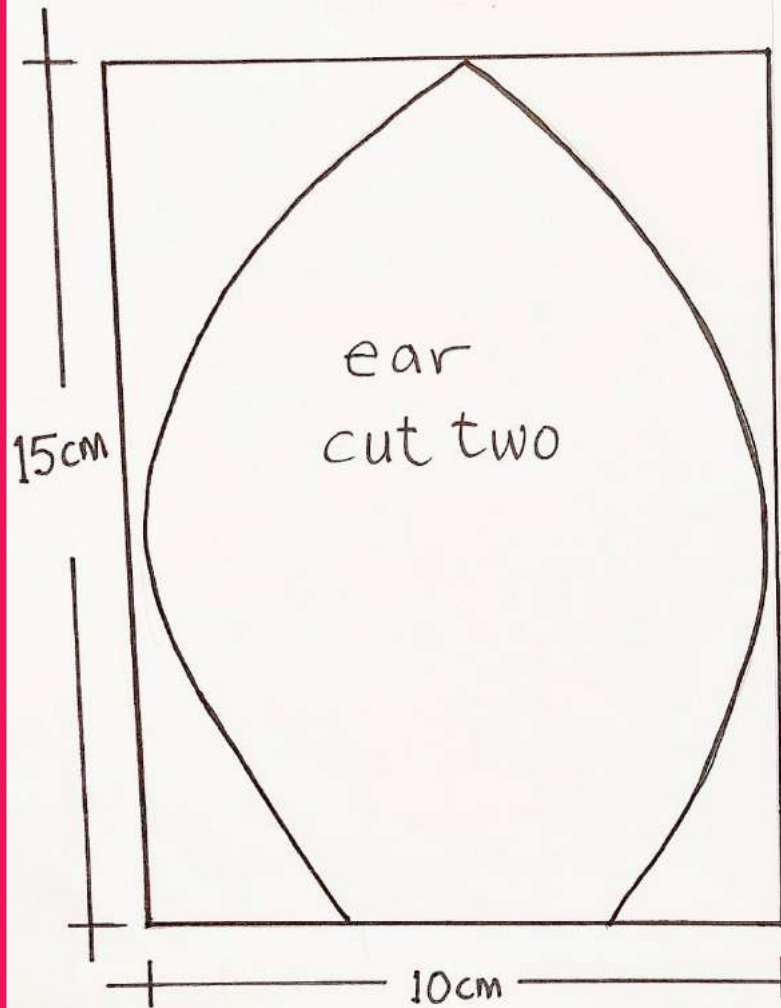
- ★ Use half a sheet of A4 paper.
- ★ Fold it in half and draw the snout and horn



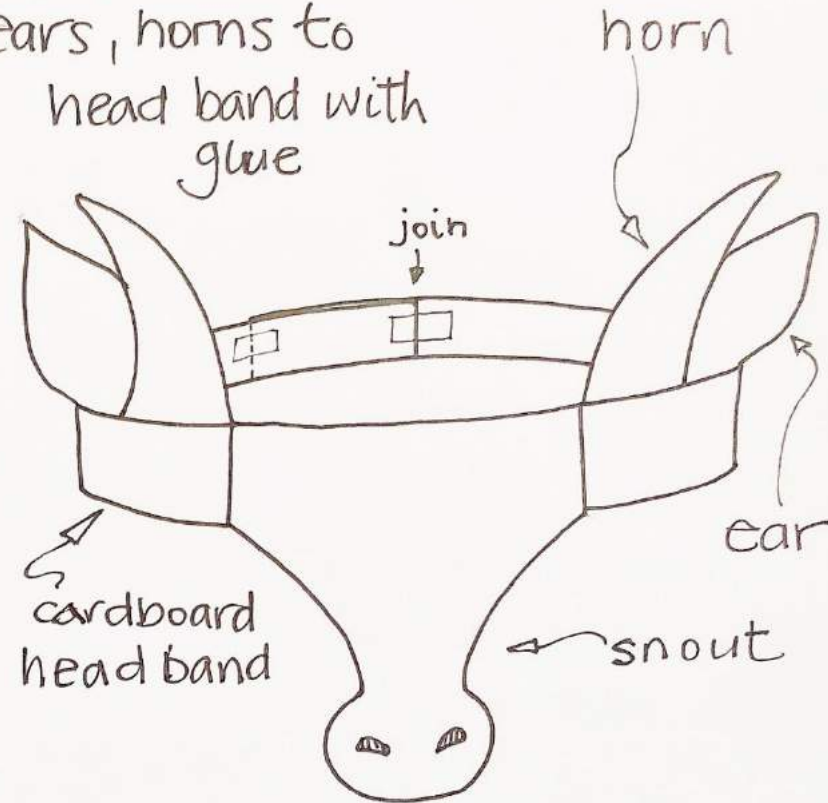
- ★ You can cut out an extra Horn and safety pin it to your shorts, or trousers to be the goat's tail!



# A Goat \* 2



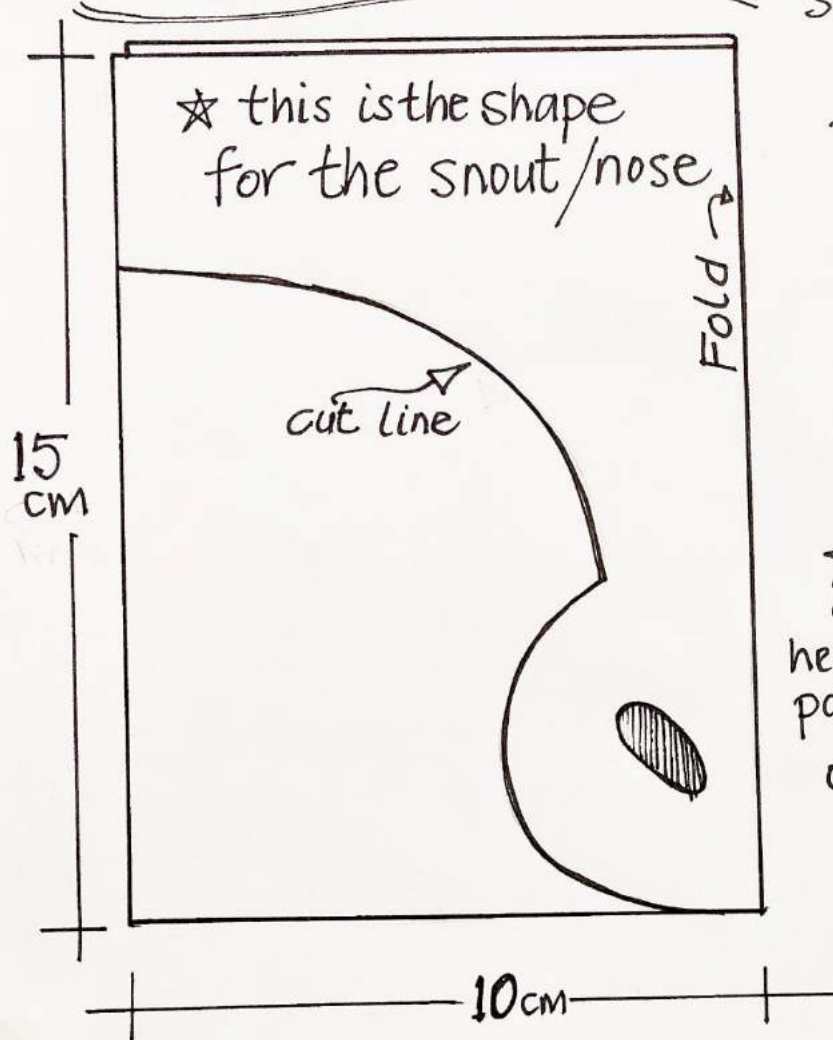
\* attach snout, ears, horns to head band with glue



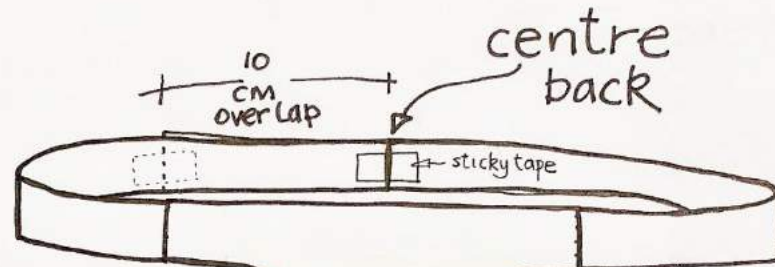
\* Decorate the goat headdress with paint, coloured paper and crayons.



# Pig snout and Cow nose



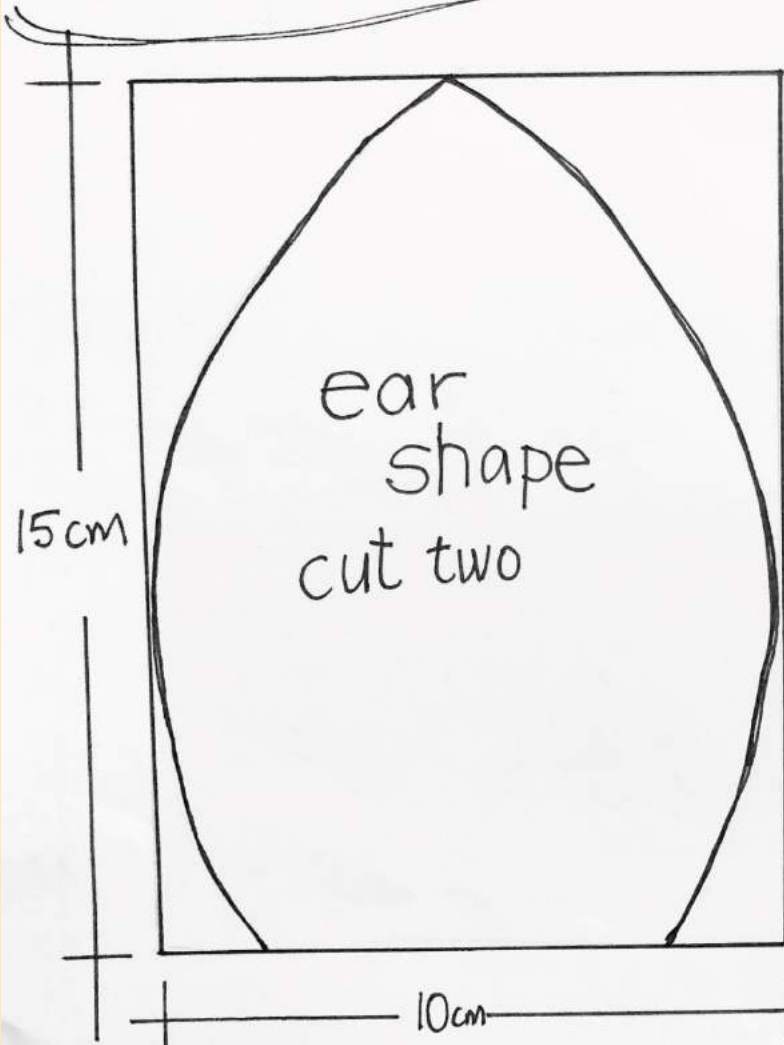
★ fold the paper in two and draw snout/nose and cut it out.  
★ attach the snout to the headband with PVA glue



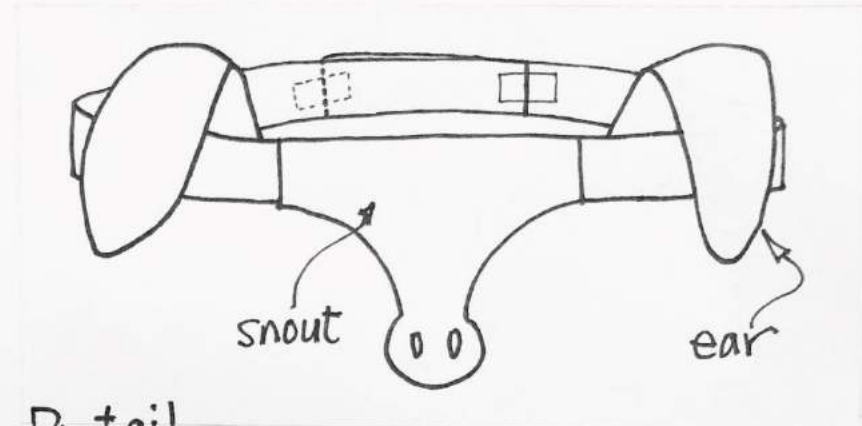
★ Colour the head band with paint, crayons, or coloured paper



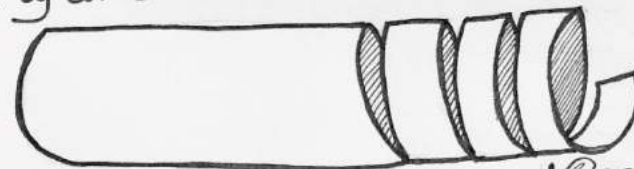
# Pig and Cow Assembly



★ attach ears and snout to head band with sticky tape



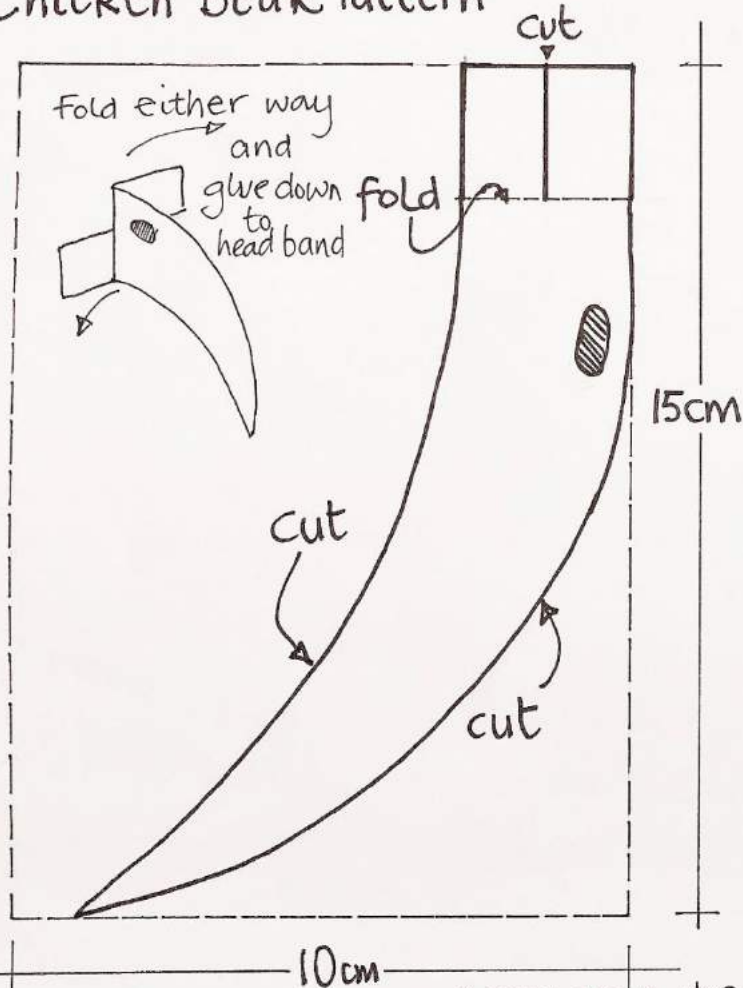
## Pigtail



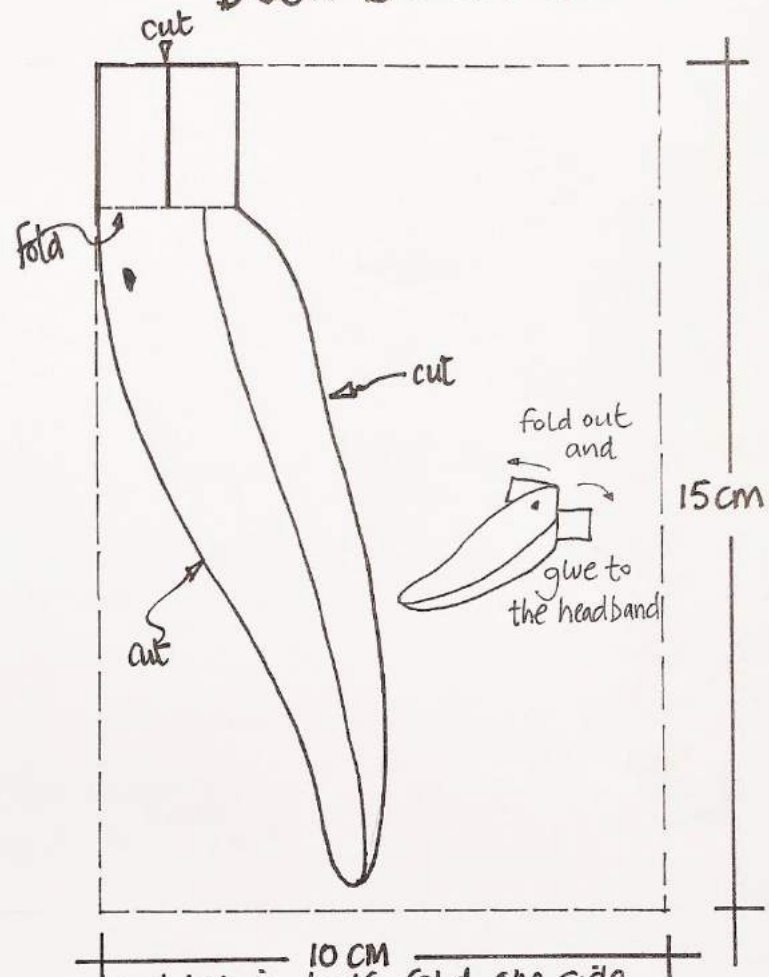
★ find a cardboard kitchen roll tube  
★ paint it pink  
★ cut a spiral and attach to trousers with a safety pin.



## Chicken Beak Pattern



## Duck Beak Pattern



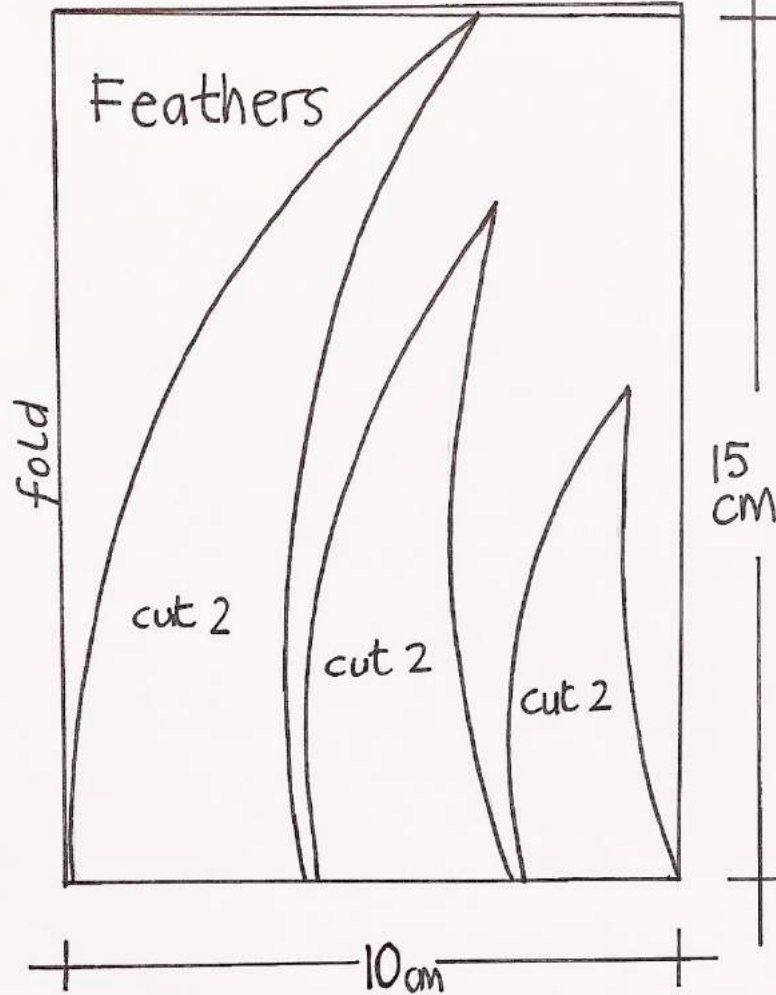
★ Cut out a beak shape as per above. ★ Cut the end tab in half, fold one side to the left and one side to the right. Glue down

15



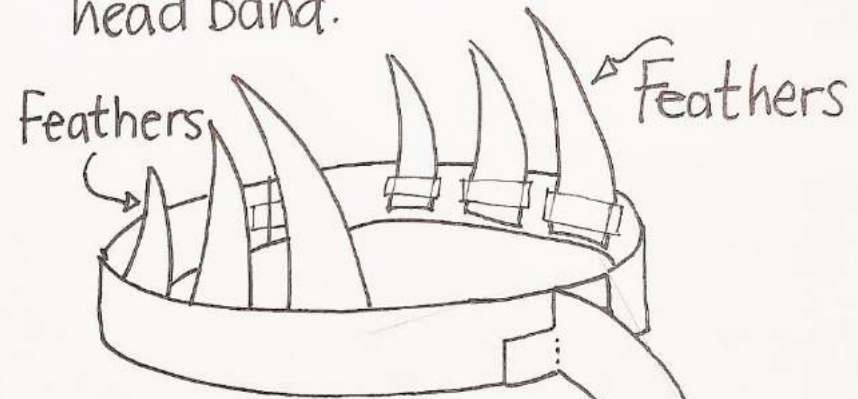


# Chicken and Duck Feathers



★ cut two large, two medium and two small feathers

★ stick the feathers to the head band.



★ stick the beak to the Beak head band with glue!

★ Paint the headdress with Chicken colours, or Duck colours, or use coloured paper.



# Make a Barn



- ★ Draw a barn like the one here - as big as you like.
- ★ Use paint, crayons, or felt tip pens to colour it
- ★ Cut the barn out using a pair of scissors. Ask an adult to help you.



★ Here is the farmer in his DEN !

★ You can make a den using cushions and pillows to form a cosy, curved wall.



★ Do you have a toy Lamb to cuddle?



"Where is the farmer? We need help!"  
What was wrong with the rocket we could not tell.  
We asked the chickens and the cows and the ducks,  
All we heard were quacks and moos and clucks.

What sounds do the farm animals make?

"If I were a farmer where would I hide?"  
We looked in the barn, there was no-one inside.  
We looked in the field, by the river, and then –  
We found the farmer in the den!

Have you got a den? Well then let's get inside and sing a song – don't forget to  
take your friends or toys in with you!





## *The Farmer's In The Den*

*The farmer's in the den, the farmer's in the den. Ee - ay - a-dio, the farmer's in the den.  
The farmer finds a friend, the farmer finds a friend. Ee - ay - a-dio, the farmer finds a friend.  
The friend rides a horse, the friend rides a horse. Ee - ay - a-dio, the friend rides a horse.  
The horse jumps a fence, the horse jumps a fence. Ee - ay - a-dio, the horse jumps a fence.  
The farmer can't keep up, the farmer can't keep up. Ee - ay - a-dio, the farmer can't keep up.  
The horse is getting tired, the horse is getting tired. Ee - ay - a-dio, the horse is getting tired.  
We all pat the horse, we all pat the horse. Ee - ay - a-dio, we all pat the horse.*

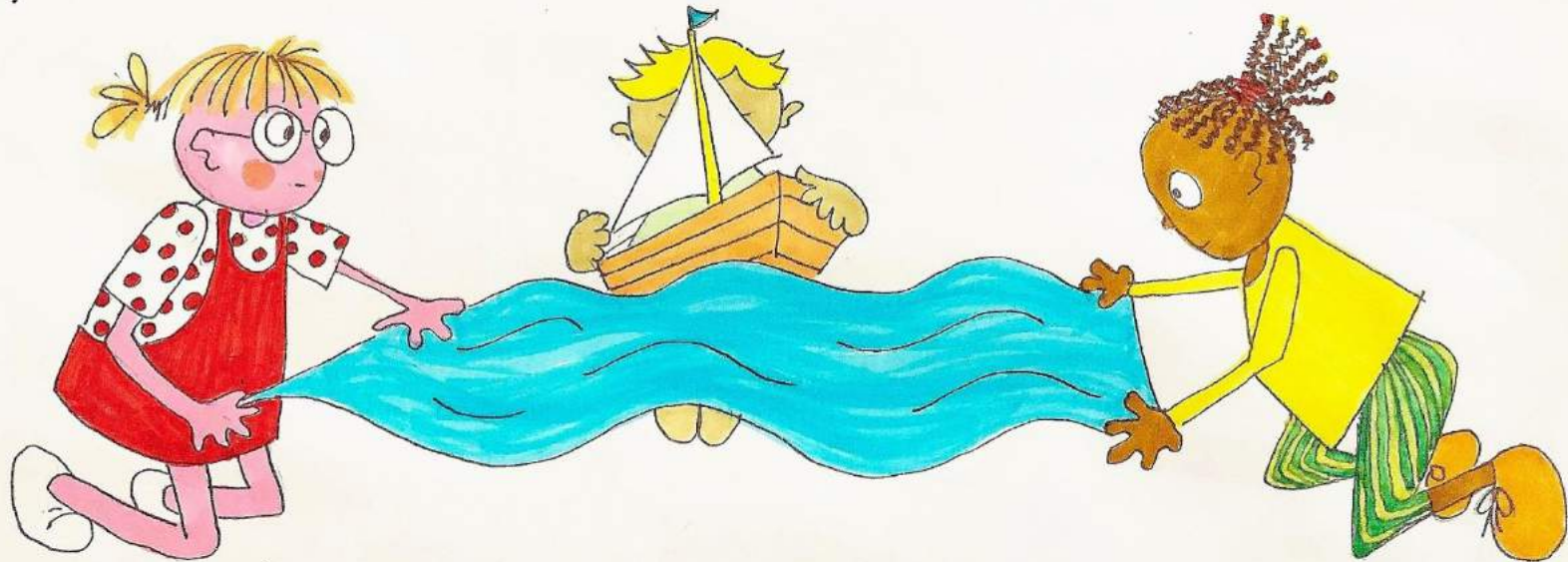
**Oh Farmer, now we've found you will you help us with our rocket?**

The farmer shrugged and gave a sigh,  
Couldn't understand why the rocket wouldn't fly,  
Said "Come this way, past the pig and the goat,  
I can lend you my beautiful boat."



IDEA  
#1

~ You can use a toy boat if you have one,  
or draw a boat on card and cut  
it out. Ask an adult to help ~



~ You can use an old curtain, or  
a blue towel, or a long piece of cloth  
to make the sea and the river

19



IDEA  
# 2

★ fold 2 sheets  
into triangles

★ tie two corners to  
a stick, or a cane

★ tie a piece of cloth  
to the top for a flag



★ Hold the last  
corner and waggle it,  
as though the wind is blowing!

'Make a Boat'



Have you got your boats ready?

We went sailing on the breeze,  
We skimmed across the waves for miles with ease.  
But although we knew we would go far,  
A boat could not take us to a star.

We sailed from the river to the ocean blue  
Until an island came into view.  
We spied it through a telescope  
And there we thought we might find hope.





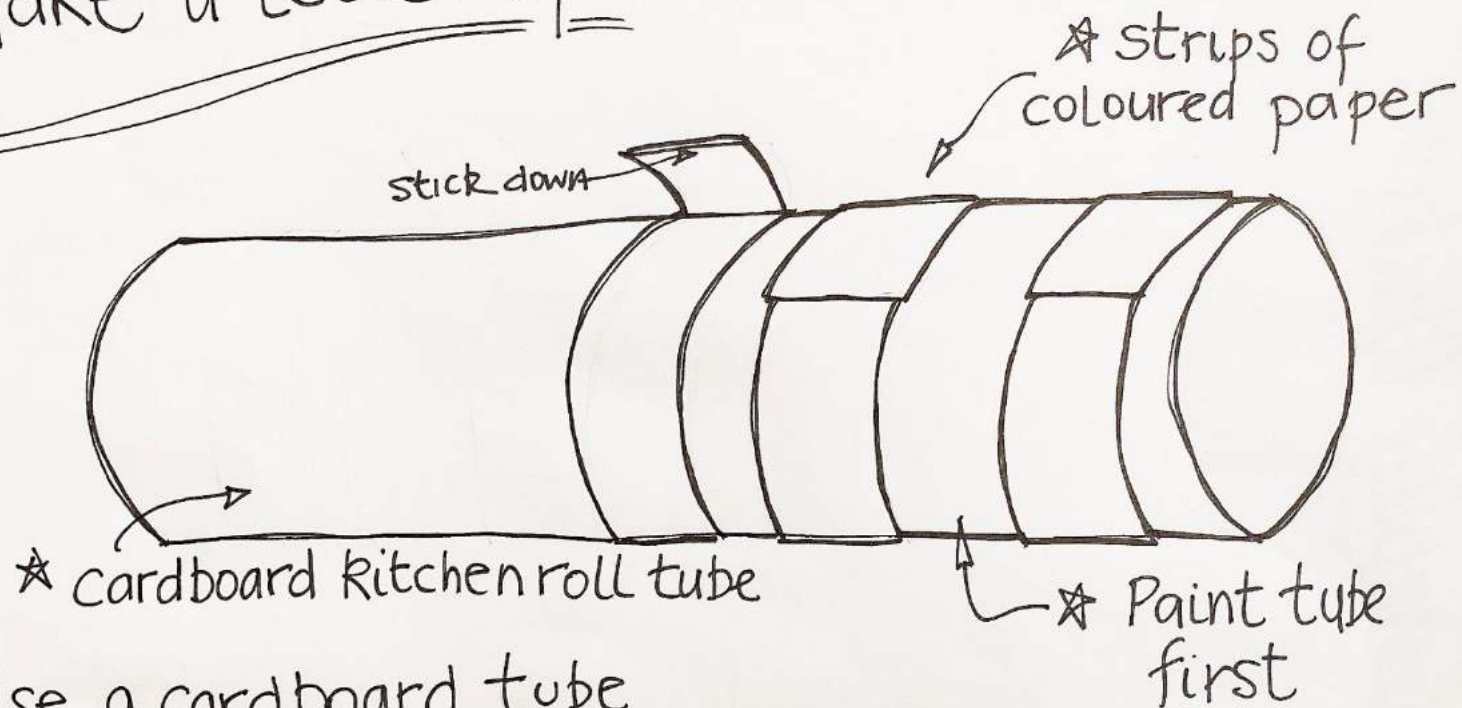
~ Look through your telescope ~



~ Paint a picture on a piece of card of an island in the sea ~



# "make a telescope"



- (1) Use a cardboard tube
- (2) Paint it all over
- (3) cut strips of coloured paper 2.5 cm wide
- (4) Wrap each one around the tube, leaving gaps
- (5) Glue strips down.



~ the Island ~

~ You could make a lovely tree by using an umbrella and covering it in green clothes ~

~ Use a duvet to make the island and heap cushions in the middle ~



Do you have your desert islands there?

And when we landed on that place  
We asked "Can anyone send us to space?"  
But it seemed our dream was out of reach,  
We must stay here on this lonely beach.

What then was that happy sound?  
It was coming from the air and all around.  
Just when we thought everything was wrong,  
The birds in the trees sang us their song:



## *Don't Worry Be Happy*

*Here's a little song I wrote, you might want to sing it note for note*

*Don't worry, be happy.*

*In every life we have some trouble, but when you worry you make it double*

*Don't worry, be happy.*

*CHORUS – Oooh*

*When you can't go out to play, and staying home feels like a long, long day*

*Don't worry, be happy.*

*You're scared that summer will pass you by, but if there's no fun that time won't  
fly*

*Don't worry, be happy.*

*CHORUS – Oooh*

*Cause when you worry your face will frown, and that will bring everybody down*

*Don't worry, be happy.*

*So when you're lying in your bed, thinking about what lies ahead*

*Don't worry, be happy.*

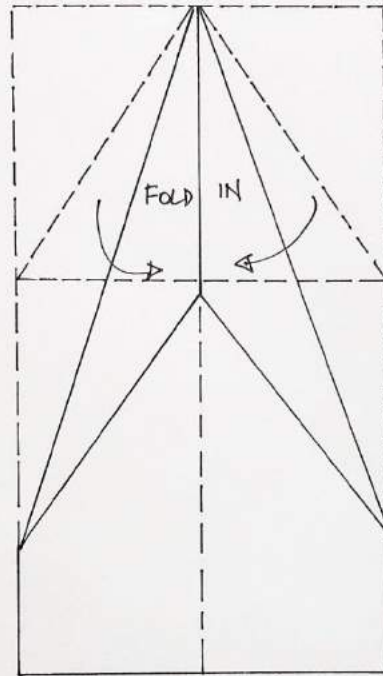
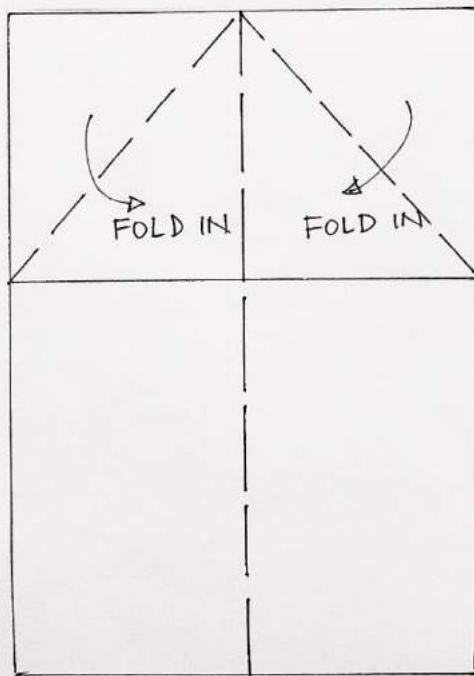




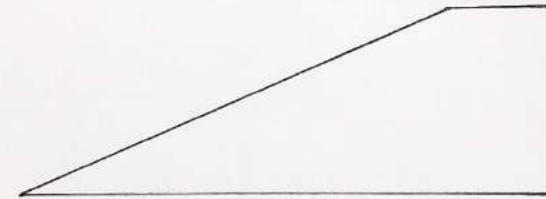
Make birds out of paper~ see if they can fly 24



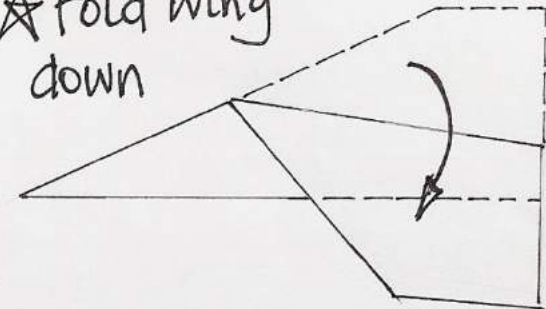
# How to make a Bird



★ fold the two sides of the bird together



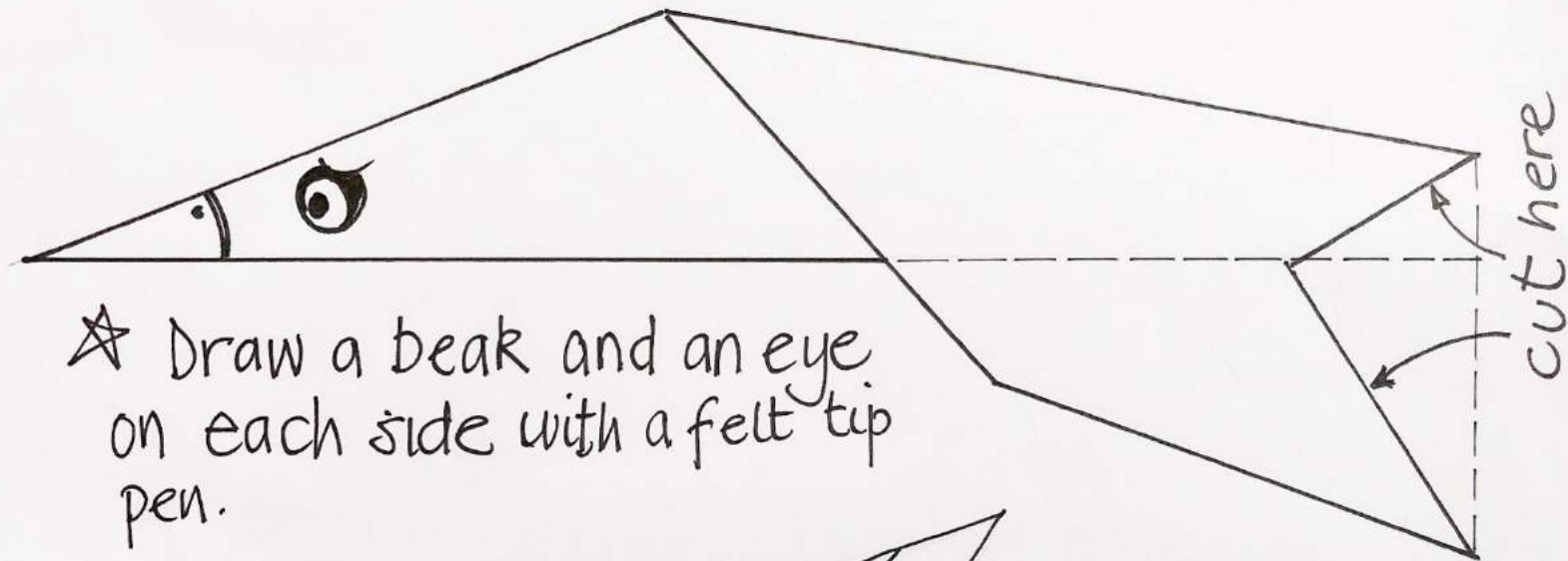
★ fold wing down



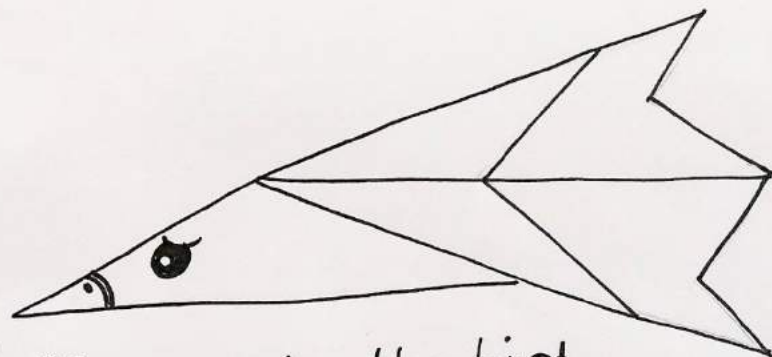
★ Take a piece of A4 paper and fold it in half along the longest side  
★ Open it out and fold in the top corners to the centre line

★ Fold in the sides again





★ Draw a beak and an eye on each side with a felt tip pen.



★ If you make the bird from coloured paper, you need not use paint.





But this is not the only thing  
The birds can tell us when they sing;  
The stars, they say, who share the sky  
They heard you ask and wonder why.  
Don't think because you're far away  
They cannot hear the things you say.  
And so they shine to let you know  
Wherever in this world you go  
You have a friend who's listening,  
They show you when they're glistening.





*When you wish upon a star  
Makes no difference who you are  
Anything your heart desires  
Will come to you...*

Think about what you need the most right now!

Just then – surprise – our rocket arrived  
Said thank you to the birds and stepped inside  
Ready for lift-off in 3,2,1  
We're zooming home to beddybys, our tale is done.



★ ★ Twinkle twinkle little star... ★ ★

Goodnight!



# ★ ★ THE END ★ ★



Produced by Pitlochry Festival Theatre May 2020

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