

8 Non-chronological reports

Keeping a Ferret as a Pet

A ferret is a small animal that is now a popular pet. Ferrets live for about eight years.

Appearance

Ferrets are around forty centimetres long. They have long, thin bodies and short legs. Many are brown but some are 'albino'. These are white with pink eyes. There are also lots of other colours to choose from.

Habitat

The ferret will need a large wire cage. This should be a multi-storey one so that your pet can explore. Make sure that the wire has small holes or your ferret could hurt itself. You need to put some objects in the cage to keep the ferret happy.



Ferrets like to swing on hammocks, play with toys and crawl in tubes. A ferret can also be trained to use a litter tray like a cat. The ferret will want soft bedding of something like wood shavings. Do not forget to clean the cage out once a week. It is better if the cage is not in the sunlight or where the animal can get cold.

Food

You can give your ferret 'dry complete ferret food'. This is good because it contains all the goodness your pet needs. Ferrets also like some minced meat, liver or eggs as a treat.

What they do

Ferrets are very friendly and clever. They sleep for 15–18 hours a day but when they are awake they need lots of playtime. Two ferrets love to play together. They need to play with humans as well.

1

Ferrets are always exploring and they will collect and hide objects. Maybe this is why their name means 'little thief' in Latin! Make sure that your ferret cannot escape before you let it out into a room. The family needs to be able to put up with all the things the ferret will do, such as hiding socks and car keys or unrolling toilet paper all over the house!

2

You will see your ferret do the 'dance of joy'. It will jump from side to side, flip on the floor and bounce off the furniture. It will look as if it has gone mad! It may make chirping noises. This means that your ferret is very happy indeed.

10 Non-chronological reports

3

Ferrets ‘talk’ by making funny little noises. Sometimes they will bite. They will do this to get attention and also to show they are cross. Ferrets do not like being woken up and they may bite if this happens.

Other information

- ☐ Ferrets are not difficult to look after. They need baths often. After they have had a bath, you can brush their fur with a soft brush. They will shed their coats twice a year. Clean their outer ears with a cotton bud but be careful not to poke it inside. Ferrets need to
- ☐ have their nails cut every 2–3 weeks. They will make a big fuss about this!

- ☐ It is important to think carefully before you choose a ferret as a pet. Ferrets need a lot of time spent on them but they are a lot of fun because they are so friendly and easy to tame.

22 Instructions

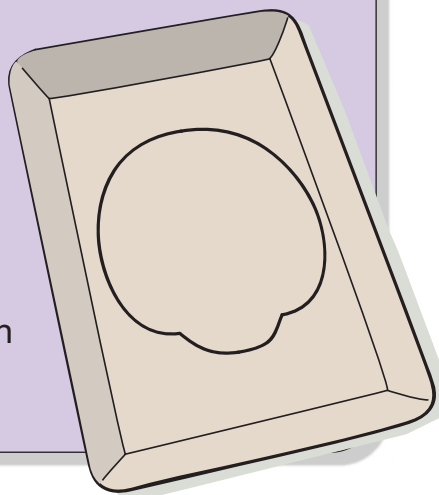
Sam's Hobby Club

Week 6: Make a Stick Puppet

Follow these instructions to make a super stick puppet!

What you need

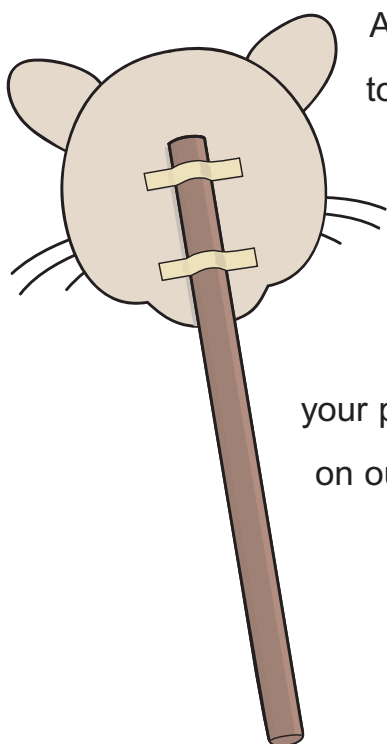
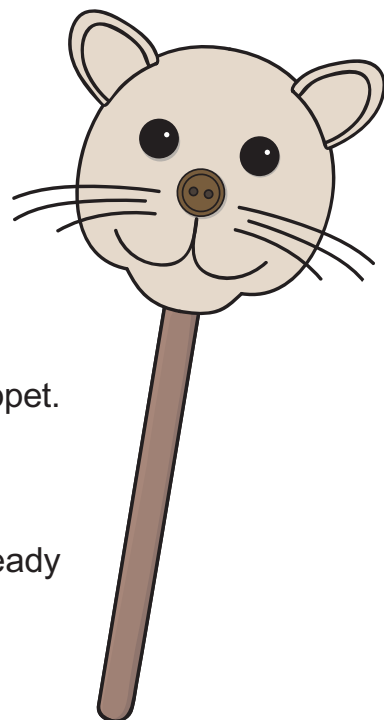
- a clean polystyrene food tray
- scissors
- a thin stick
- felt tip or gel pens
- some sticky tape
- glue
- some wool or felt
- beads, buttons, etc. for extra decoration
- stick-on googly eyes (optional)



What to do

- 1** Decide what puppet you want to make – it could be a person, an animal or a fantasy creature. Draw the outline of your puppet on the flat part of the tray. (See diagram.)
- 2** Carefully cut out the puppet shape. If you are not sure about using scissors, ask an adult to help.

- 3** Draw on the details such as the eyes, nose and mouth. Stick on the eyes, if you are using them.
- 4** Stick on some pieces of wool or felt for the hair (or fur or whiskers!)
- 5** Use the beads, buttons, etc. to decorate the puppet. Tape the stick to the back.



And your first stick puppet is ready to have fun!

Try making some different characters. You could make up a story about them and put on a play.

Send us a photo of your puppet – or your puppet play. We'll put some of the best ones on our Letters Page next month!

An ABC of Getting About

Aeroplane An aeroplane is a vehicle with wings and an engine. It flies through the air.

Automobile An automobile is a motor car. When the automobile was first invented, it was called a '*horseless carriage*'.

Barge A barge is a long, flat-bottomed boat used on canals and rivers. Barges used to be pulled by horses walking along a path beside the waterway.



Bicycle A bicycle is a vehicle with two wheels which are held in a frame. The rider moves it along by pushing pedals with their feet. There are other kinds of cycles, for example the *unicycle* and the *tricycle*.

Bus A bus is a large vehicle for carrying many people. The word 'bus' is short for 'omnibus'. The first omnibus, in London in 1829, was horse-drawn. Buses can be single- or double-decker.

Canoe A canoe is a small, narrow boat with pointed ends. It moves along by the person or people inside using one or more paddles.

Cart (1) A cart is a vehicle with two or four wheels, pulled by a person or animal and used to carry loads. (2) A cart is a vehicle for carrying people, pulled by one or more horses.

Catamaran A catamaran is a boat which has two **hulls**.

Cruise liner A cruise liner is a very large ship used for holidays at sea. People live on the ship, which stops at different places on the voyage.

Galleon A galleon is a large Spanish sailing ship which was used in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Glider A glider is an *aeroplane* without an engine.

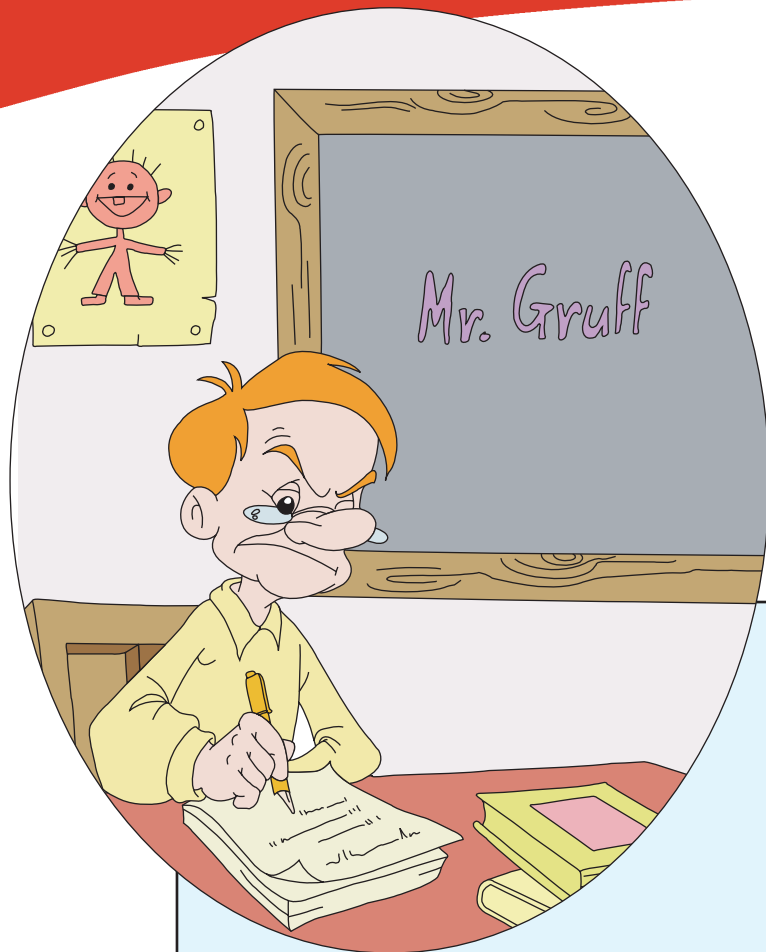
Gondola A gondola is a flat-bottomed boat with high pointed ends, used on the canals in Venice. The boatman stands at the **stern** and pushes it along with one oar.

Hang-glider A hang-glider is a large kite with which a person can glide through the air.



Hansom cab A hansom cab is a two-wheeled horse-drawn carriage. It was the 19th-century version of a *taxi*. Two passengers could sit inside and the driver sat behind.

38 Letters



Letter from Mr Gruff to Mrs Washer

The Looking Glass Primary School

Warren Lane

Wonderland

8th April 2005

Dear Mrs Washer

I am writing to you to complain about the behaviour of your son Jack.

First of all, I am cross because he is probably the laziest child that I have ever met. He has not yet finished any of his homework and it is always handed in late. He is idle in class and never seems to know any of the answers.

Secondly, it is dreadful that he does not pay attention during lessons. As a result he does not yet know the letters of the alphabet, he cannot add up simple sums and he spends all the lesson time

day-dreaming about castles in the air. Sometimes, he puts his head down on his arms and within five minutes he is snoring. Does he get enough sleep at night?

Thirdly, I am concerned that he has been telling the most extraordinary lies to the other children. He claims that he sold your old cow, Milky-white, for a few beans. I know that he is not a very bright boy but surely he has not sold your cow for a handful of beans? He has been telling the children that they are magic beans.

However, I was sorry to hear that after school last week Jack hurt his head. He claims that he was trying to fetch some water and he slipped.

I would appreciate it if you could come up to the school so that we could talk over these issues.

Yours sincerely

Mr Gruff

Headteacher

