

APPENDIX 1: SHADOW PUPPETRY

Shadow Puppetry

It is thought that shadow puppetry originated in China over 2000 years ago during the Han Dynasty (140 – 87 BCE). The emperor Han Wudi was heartsick after the death of his lady, so an advisor invented a way to see the late Empress through shadows. Also known as “pi ying xi” or *leather shadow play*, the contrast and movement between light and shadow bring the puppet characters to life. Combined with music, singing and storytelling, shadow puppetry embodies Chinese folklore. Considered an irreplaceable and intangible source of cultural heritage, shadow puppetry is on a state-level list of Chinese cultural heritage by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Chinese local authorities, along with non-governmental organizations are recording and preserving this tradition. They also support teaching the custom to children to keep the tradition alive for generations.



Authentic Chinese shadow puppets – Maxwell Museum education collection

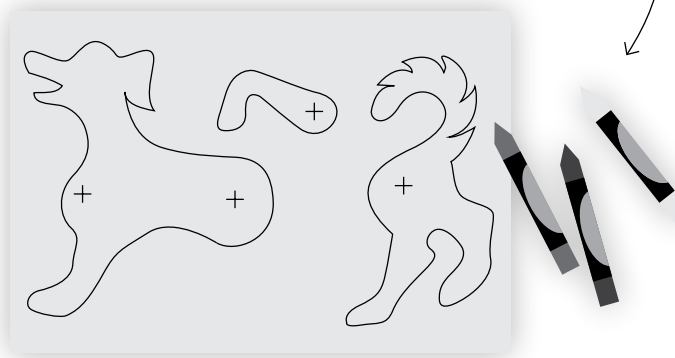
Activity sheet three: make a Chinese shadow puppet

You will need:

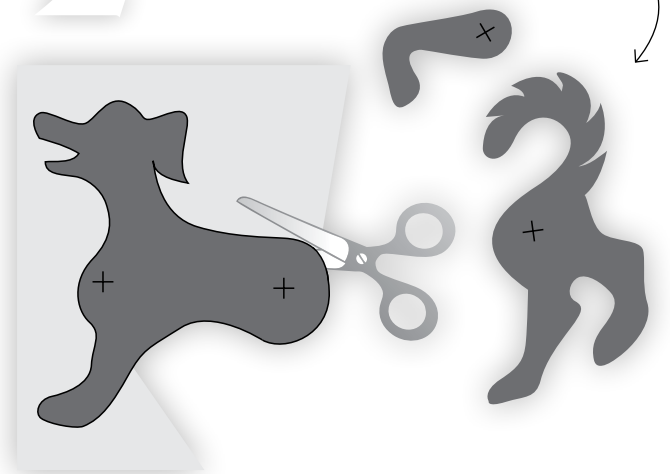
- light coloured card
- masking tape
- pens/pencils/crayons
- scissors
- bradawl
- paper hole reinforcers
- brass paper fasteners
- sticks (chopsticks, lolly sticks or garden canes).



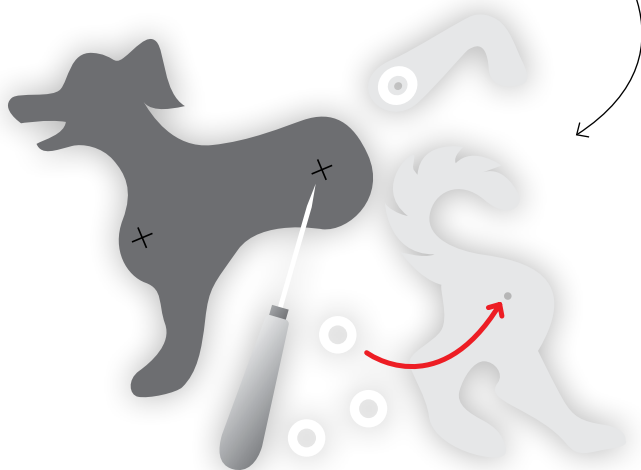
1 Choosing one of the templates provided, copy the outlines onto a sheet of light coloured card. Colour in the puppet with pens, pencils or crayons if you wish.



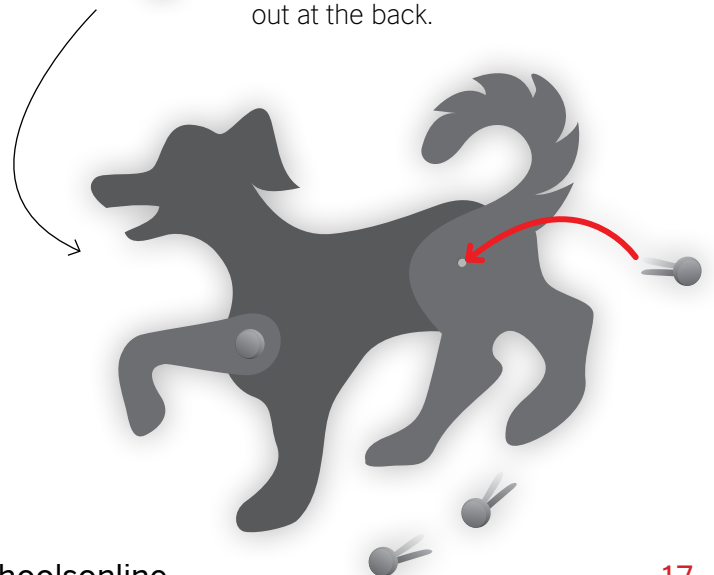
2 Go over the outlines with a marker and cut out the pieces carefully.



3 Carefully make a hole at the points marked with an 'X' with a bradawl and strengthen each hole on the back with an adhesive paper hole reinforcer to prevent them from tearing.



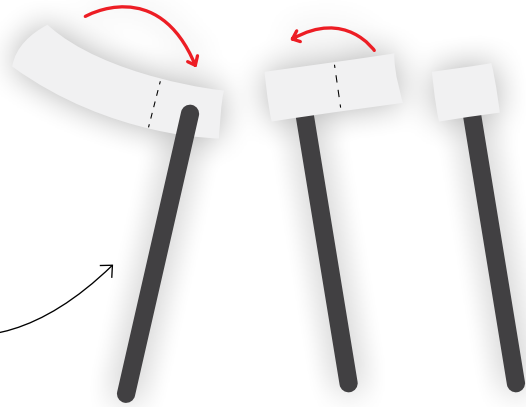
4 Attach the moving parts to the main puppet using brass paper fasteners pushed through the reinforced holes from the front and opened out at the back.



Now make the hinged attachments to fix the sticks to the puppets. These will allow the sticks to be held at an angle to the puppets, so that the sticks and puppeteers' hands will not show on the screen.

5

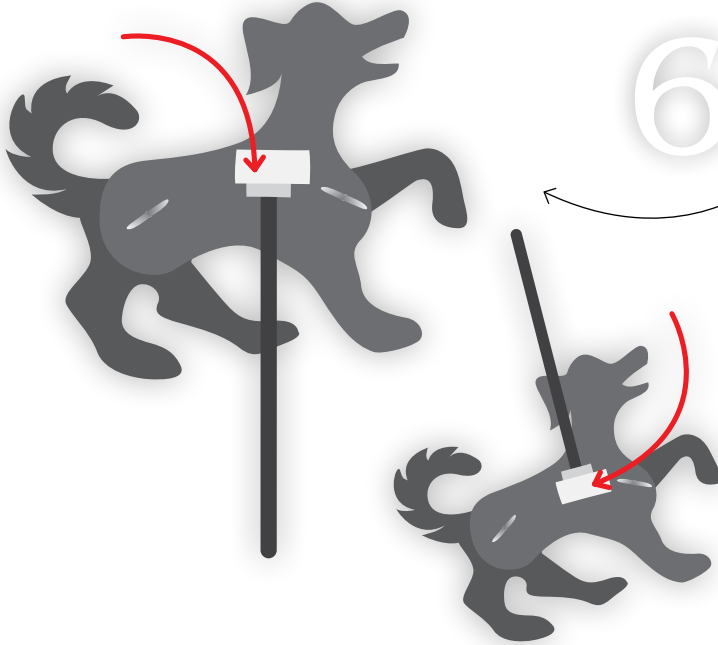
First stick a 10cm length of masking tape to the end of each stick, extending past the end and the sides, fold over a few times then flatten the tape to make a small spade-like end on the stick.



6

With a shorter piece of tape, stick the tape 'spade' (not the stick) to the back of the body of the puppet. Flip the stick upwards, and stick the underside of the 'spade' to the puppet as well. This creates a hinged handle.

Trim off any tape that shows from the front of the puppet.



7

Repeat the process for all the moving parts of the puppet, so each piece has its own hinged handle attached.

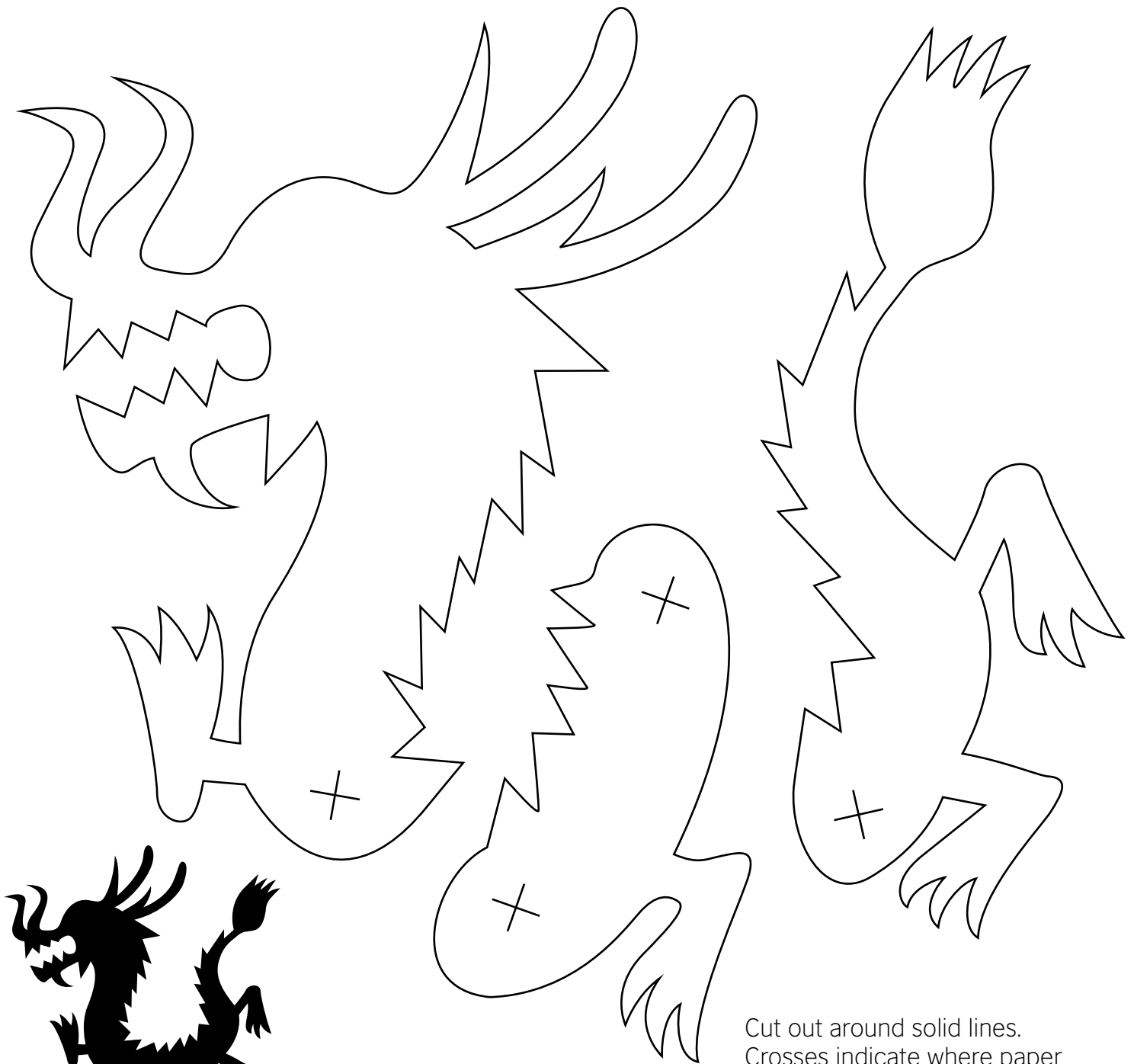


8

Use a lamp to shine on a light coloured cloth or wax paper screen.

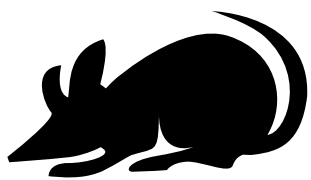
Practise moving your puppets in front of the light to make the shadows move. Use the sticks to hold the puppets up close to the screen whilst your hands are further back. This will ensure they do not show up on the screen.



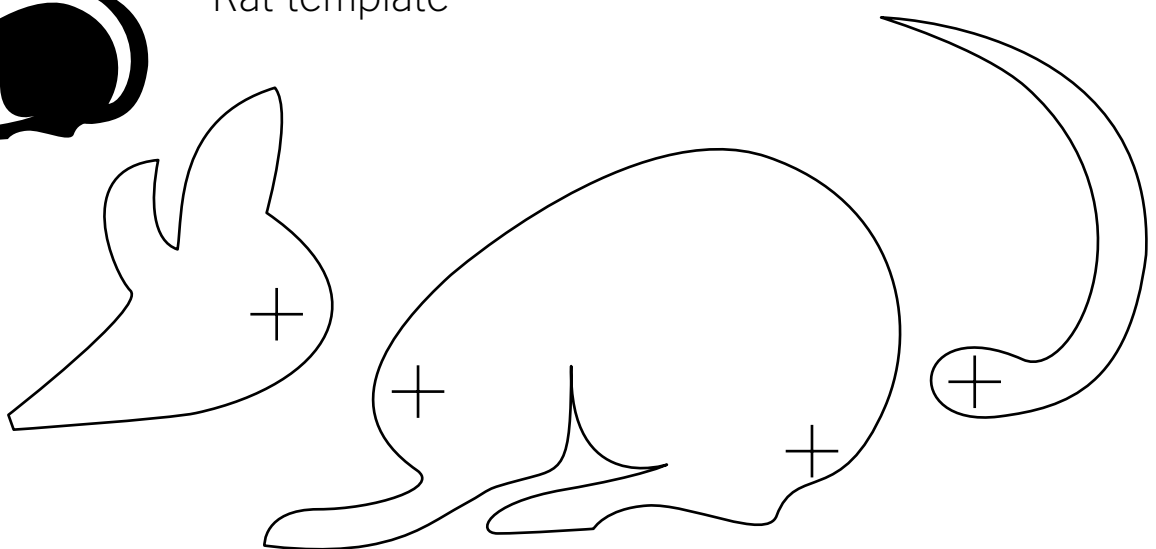


Dragon template

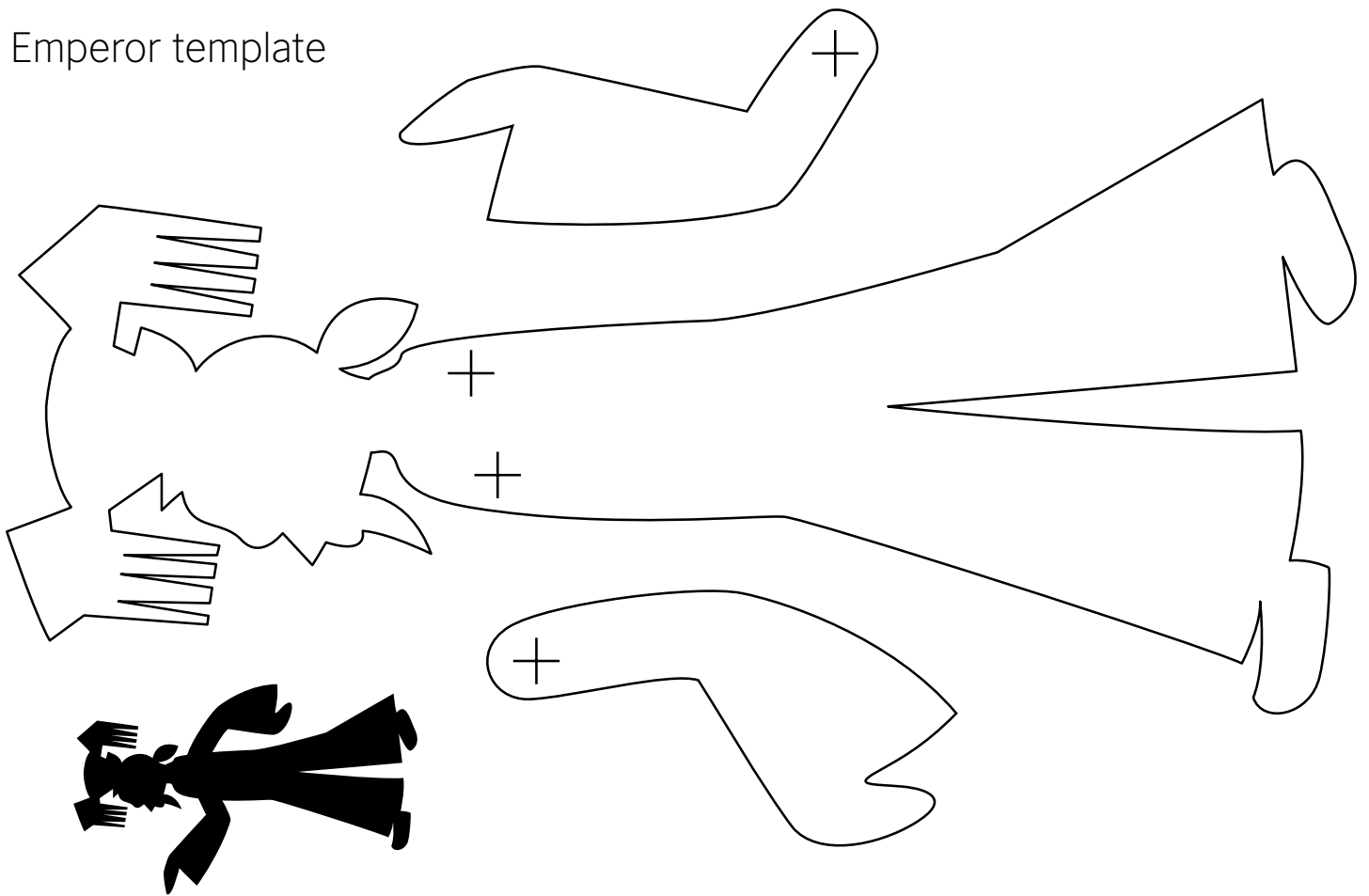
Cut out around solid lines.
Crosses indicate where paper
fasteners should be positioned.



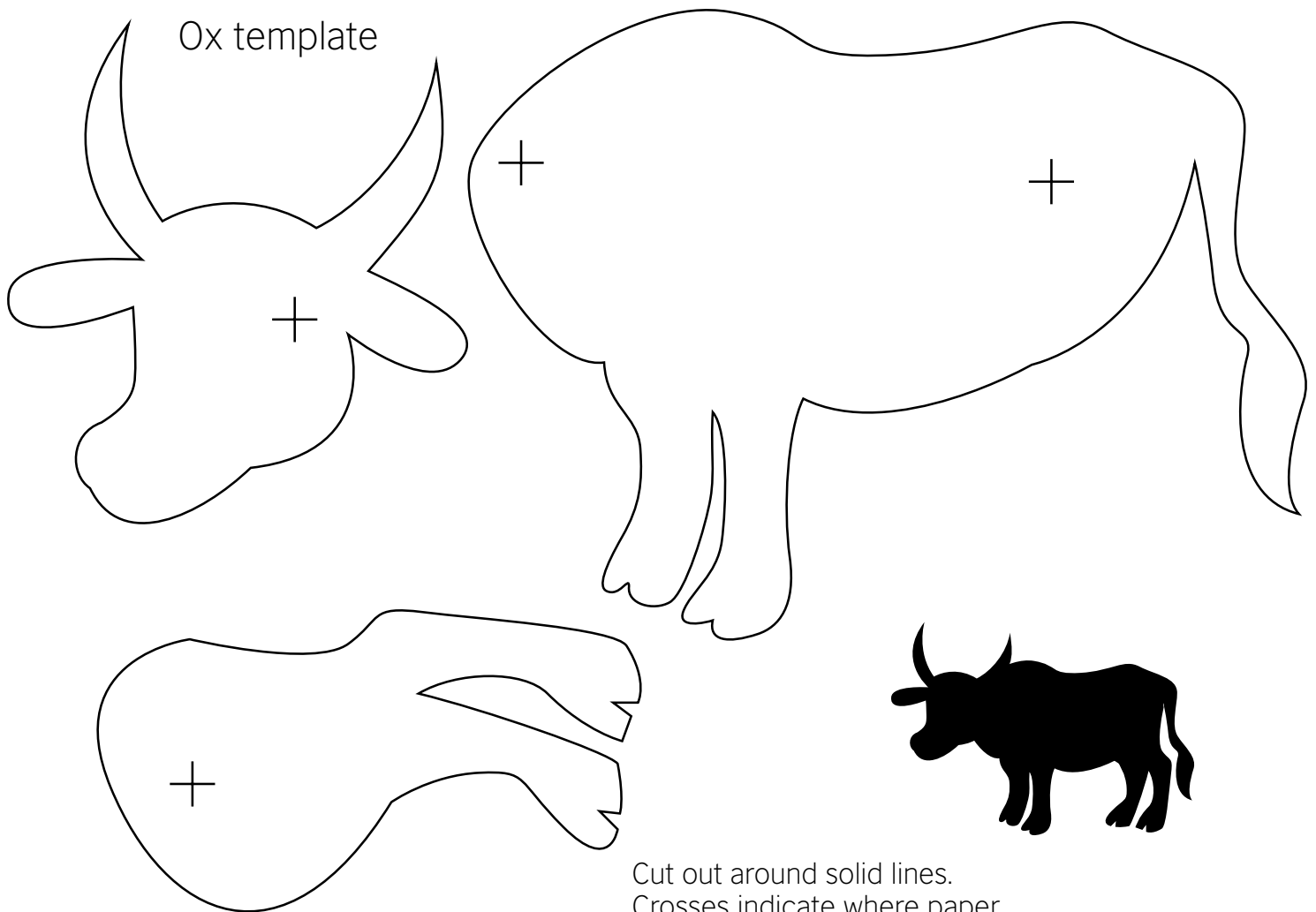
Rat template



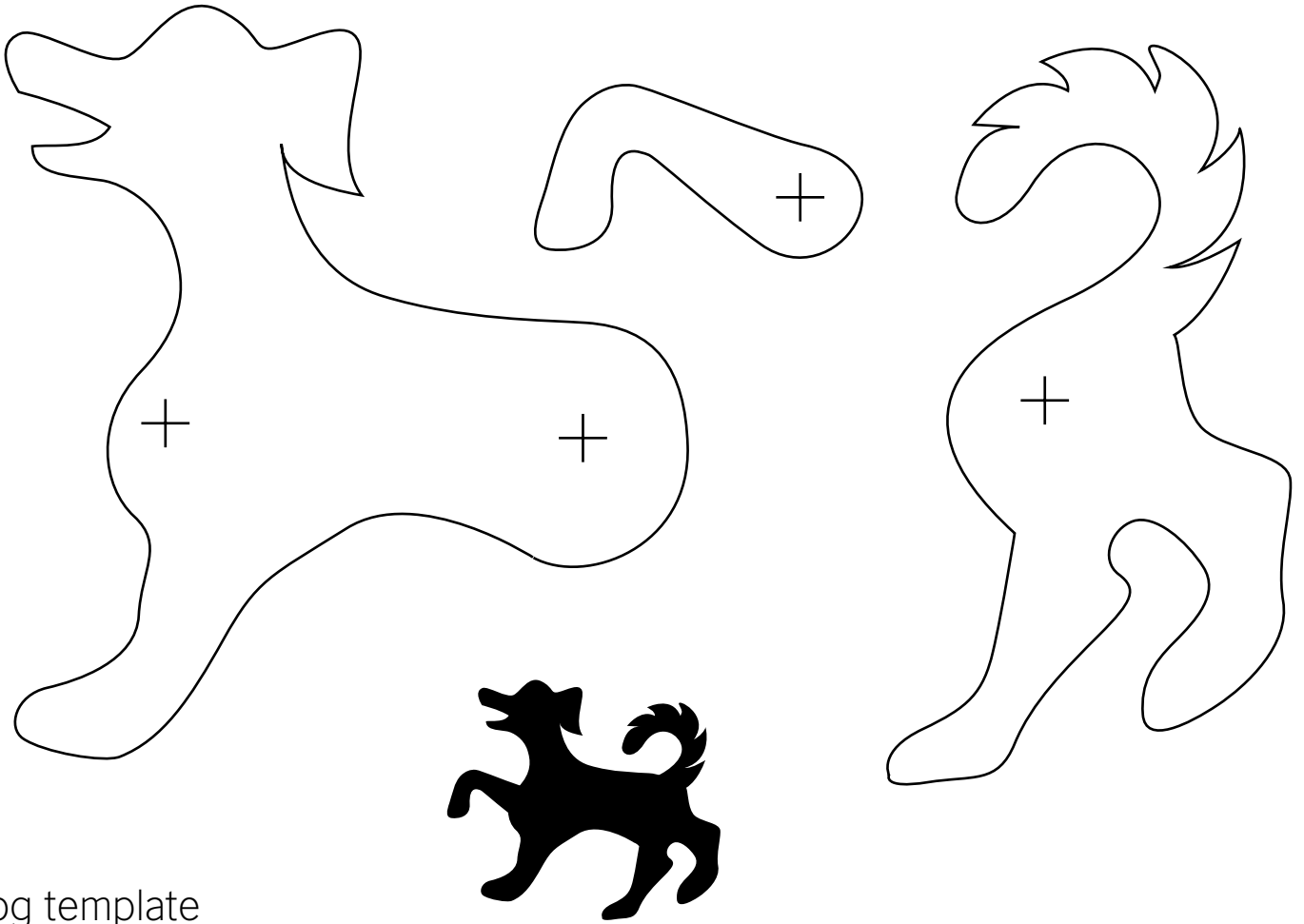
Emperor template



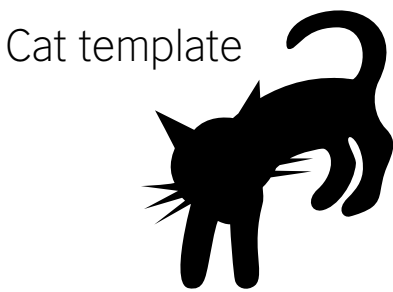
Ox template



Cut out around solid lines.
Crosses indicate where paper
fasteners should be positioned.

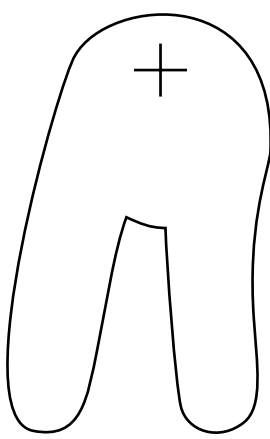


Dog template

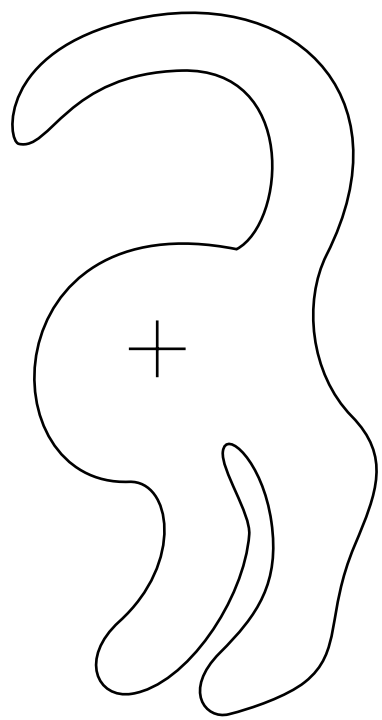
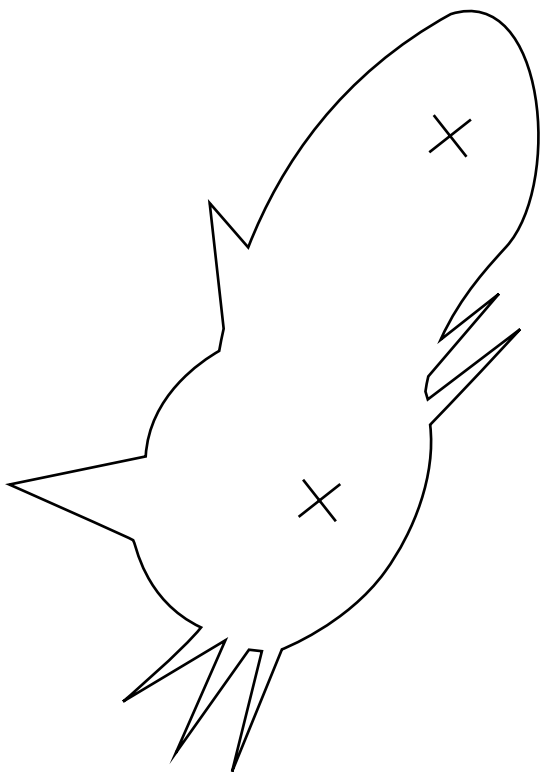


Cat template

Cut out around solid lines.
Crosses indicate where paper
fasteners should be positioned.



Attach front legs
behind head piece





DIY shadow puppets



Lulu appreciating the usefulness of opposable thumbs!

Shadow Puppets and Storytelling

Consider writing a story as a stage play (script) for your puppets. Use the 7 elements of literature in your writing. Try using archetypes as a literary device to develop your story. An archetype is a reoccurring **symbol** or motif throughout literature that represents universal patterns of human nature. It can also refer to the original model on which all other things of the same kind are based. (Literarydevices.com)

The 7 Elements of Literature

1. Character (the who in your story)
Ex: caregiver, creator, explorer, hero, innocent (a child or “damsel in distress”), jester (or trickster), leader (or ruler), lover, magician, regular person (everyman or everywoman), sage (mentor or genius), villain (outlaw or rebel)
2. Plot (what happens in your story)
Ex: comedy, overcoming the monster, rags to riches, rebirth, the quest, tragedy, voyage and return
3. Setting (where and at what time period the action takes place)
 - a. Create set designs that show the setting of your story
4. Style (from lyrical prose to modern and contemporary speech, diction (word choice), syntax, point of view, tone, theme)
5. Point of view (first, second, or third person, or overarching narration with multiple points of view)
6. Theme (universal patterns of the human experience)
Ex: betrayal, family, friendship, honor, hypocrisy, justice, love, violence
7. Literary devices (artistic techniques for greater understanding and appreciation)
Ex: allegory, alliteration, figurative language, foreshadowing, humor, hyperbole, irony, metaphor, onomatopoeia, personification, simile, symbolism

Complete a Story Map to help develop your story.

Additional Resources

[UNESCO shadow puppetry YouTube video](#)

This film highlights the shadow puppetry tradition in present day China.

<https://www.chineseshadowpuppetry.com/>

First ever shadow puppetry website in English, with videos, information and patterns for DIY shadow puppets.

Cross Curricular Connections

Math/Science

Properties of light and shadow

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plans/teaching-content/experimenting-shadows-and-light/>

Pre-K – K and grades 1-2 lesson plan on the properties of light and shadow

<https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/lsp07.sci.phys.energy.lplightmoves/how-light-moves/#.XqClgGhKjIU>

Grade 3-5 lesson plan from PBS learning

http://peepandthebigwideworld.com/en/educators/curriculum/center-based-educators/shadows/activity/stand-alone/531/shadow-theater-animal-shadows/?node_context

Shadow Theater: Animal Shadows from WGBN Educational Foundation

<http://peepandthebigwideworld.com/en/educators/curriculum/center-based-educators/23/shadows/node/825/>

Explore Shadows activities and curriculum from WGBN Educational Foundation

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVClAj8q_IY

The story of the Chinese New Year race from BBC's CBeebies

Language Arts

Creative Writing

https://www.readingrockets.org/strategies/story_maps

Instructions and templates for using a story map from Reading Rockets WETA Public Broadcasting