



Short Activity
Ages 6–8
20–30 minutes

Fish Tales Storytelling Activity

Description

Participants will create a fish character out of pipe cleaners and create an oral story about it. The program is flexible, so you can let participants make any kind of sea creature—just keep in mind the number of pipe cleaners you have to distribute. They can either use the prompts below or write whatever they wish.

Prompts

- I had a dream that I became a fish person. As a fish with legs, I could...
- (Character name) woke up late and was running to school when...
- (Character name) was going to watch a movie today, so they got onto the whale bus and...
- (Character name) sat down at their favourite cafe. They really wanted to try...
- (Character name) was excited to try a new recipe. Today they were going to make...

Storytelling options (in pairs or small groups)

- Each participant creates their own pipe cleaner fish and makes an oral story about it. Anyone in the group can share their story.
- One or more fish are created, and each participant takes a turn adding a sentence to the story about the character(s).

Number of participants

For any number of participants

Space considerations

An indoor space where participants can be seated to do an activity

Competencies

- Creative and imaginative thinking
- Literacy
- Oral communication skills
- Working collaboratively
- Written communication skills

Materials

Fish character craft (per person)

- Pipe cleaners (recommended amount)
 - one long
 - one or two short (one for legs, one for fish detailing)
- One googly eye
- One piece of tape to attach the eye

Storytelling

- Handouts
- Lined paper handouts (*offer both types for accessibility)
- Pencils and erasers
- Coloured pencils, markers, crayons

Preparation

- Prepare the room for a craft and writing activity
- Print both types of lined paper
- Distribute craft materials

Implementation

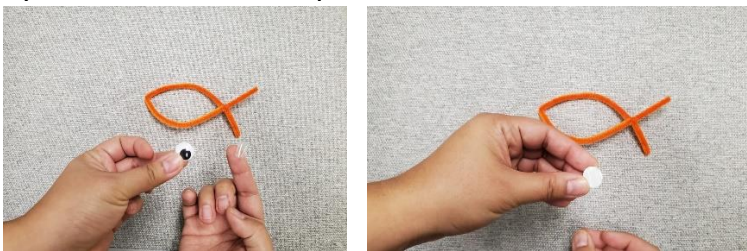
1. Hold the long pipe cleaner horizontally and fold it in half so that both ends meet, then cross the ends in your right hand. You can widen the fish's body



2. Twist the ends to lock the tail into place



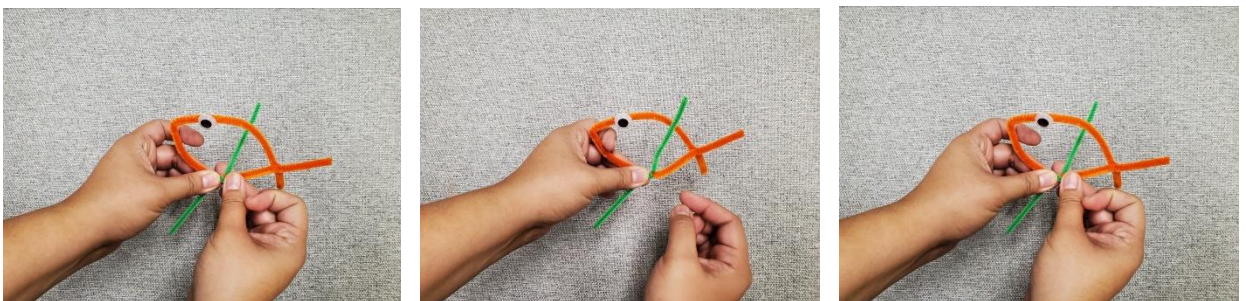
3. Add a googly eye by rolling a piece of tape and attaching it to the back of the eye. Stick it to the top of the fish's head



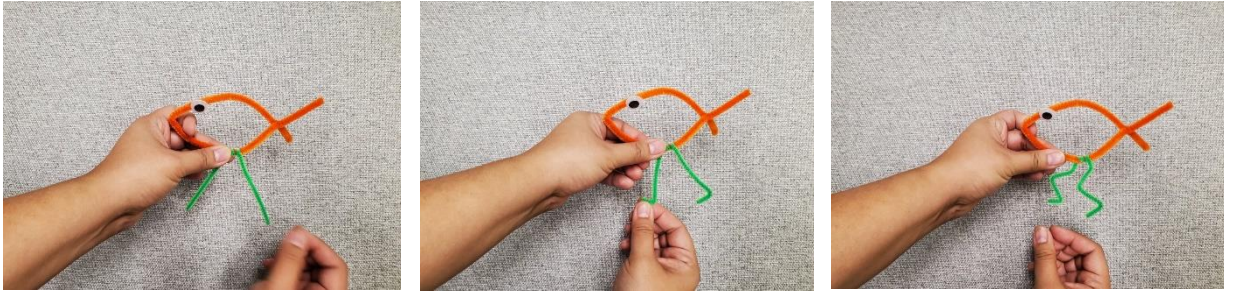
4. Take one of the short pipe cleaners and put it through the fish's body, then bend it over the bottom of the fish to make legs.



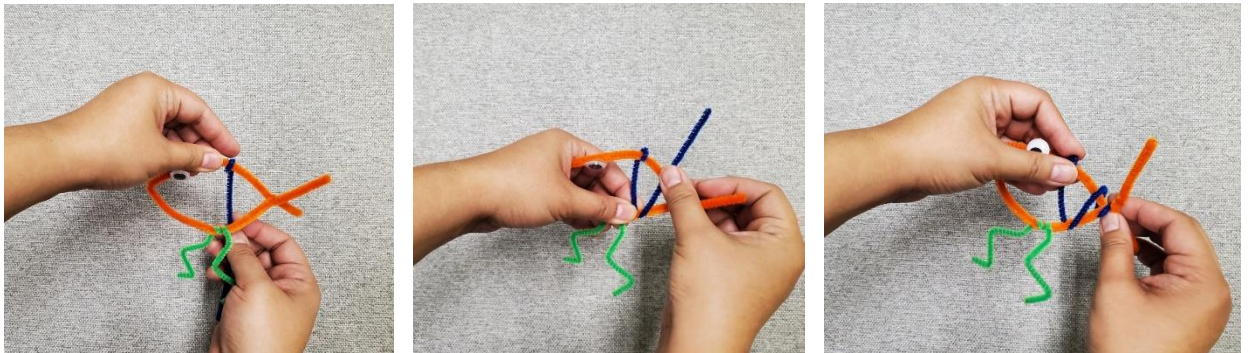
5. Wrap the pipe cleaner around the bottom of the fish a few times to keep it sturdy



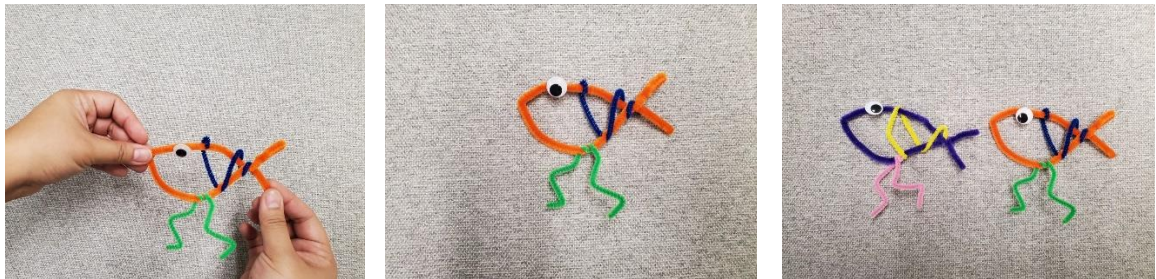
6. Straighten out the legs, then bend the ends to make feet and bend halfway up the leg to make knees



7. (Optional) You can add some details by using another short pipe cleaner to create a zig-zag pattern by wrapping it around the top, then the bottom and back to the top



8. Bend, curve or shape your fish character however you wish to complete it. Your character is ready to go!



Five-sentence story guide example:

- One to two sentences: Name of fish and details about the fish (e.g., where it lives)
- One sentence: What is the fish doing or where is it going?
- One to two sentences: What happened?

Free writing example:

- Wanda was a busy fish who lived in the Pacific Ocean. Today was market day and she wanted to buy some pearls to make a necklace for her best friend Gilly. She caught the jellyfish bus and arrived just in time to buy pearls from Misty Oyster. She visited the Crabby Cafe for a donut on her way home.

Prompt example:

- I had a dream that I became a fish person. As a fish with legs, I could walk underwater and on land. It was pretty sunny up there and I found it hard to see. I noticed other fish people had the same problem, and I got the idea to start a sunglasses company. Now our eyes are protected AND we look cool. I put on my new shades and woke up in my human body.

Accessibility considerations

- Provide the two types of lined paper if any participants would like to develop their story on paper
- Offer a wide variety of writing implements that kids can choose from (pencil crayons, markers, chunky crayons with different colours)
- Give them the option to draw a picture of what happens to the character or even create their own comic on the other side of the lined paper
- Be flexible and allow them to come up with their own writing prompt if they prefer
- Participants can work in pairs or small groups

Book suggestions

Sejal Sinha Swims with Sea Dragons by Maya Prasad and Abira Das

Shark Girl by Kate Beaton

Shark Princess: Surfin' Sharks by Nidhi Chanani

What Fish Are Saying: Strange Sounds in the Ocean by Kirsten Pendreigh and Katie Melrose

Download links

[Pipe cleaner fish instructions](#)

[Half inch lined paper](#)

Pipe Cleaner Fish Character Instructions

1. Hold the long pipe cleaner horizontally and fold it in half so that both ends meet, then cross the ends in your right hand. You can widen the fish's body



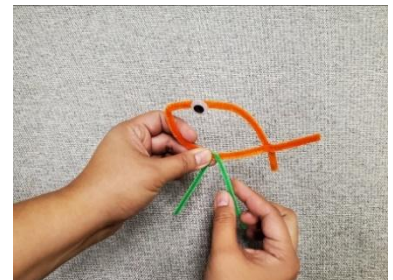
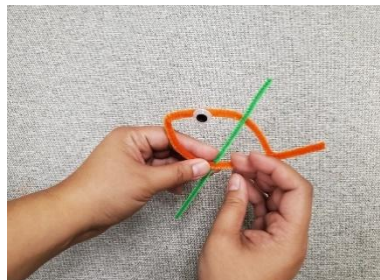
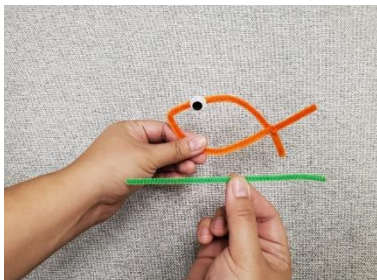
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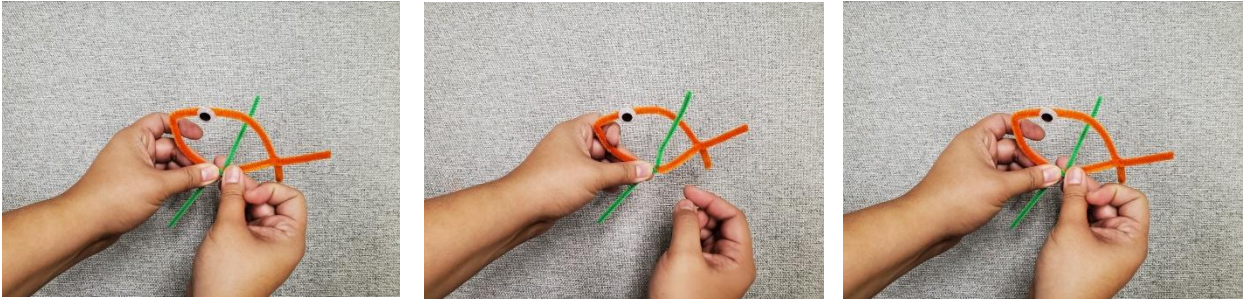
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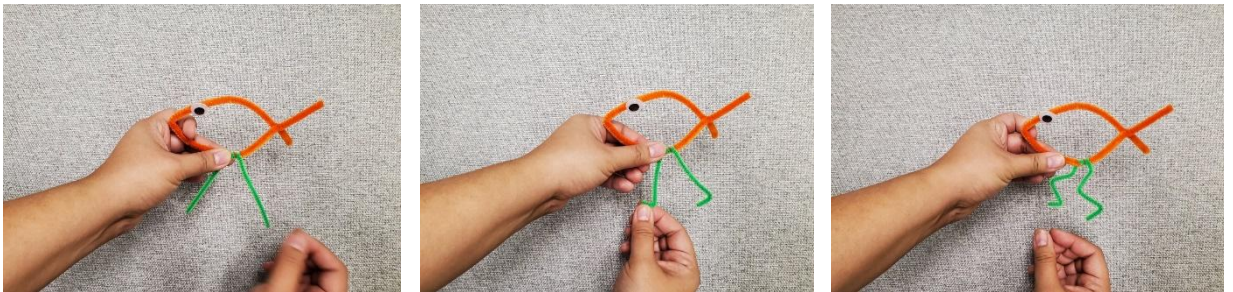
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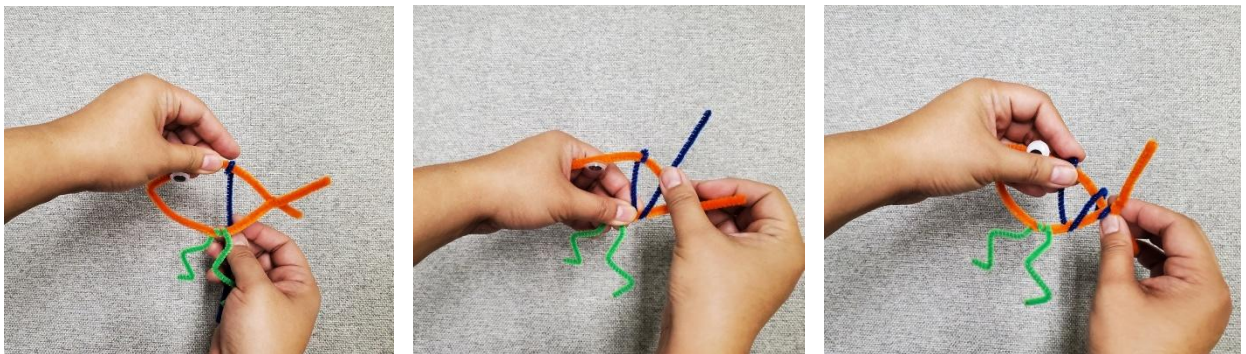
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