

## Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum (Prague, Czech Republic)

### Take a trip to Prague, and make your own Czech marionette

*120 minutes prep, 30 minutes of class time*

In this lesson, your class can be taught about the Czech Republic, its castles and history. Then they can learn about a special kind of puppet called a marionette, and the tradition of making marionettes in the Czech Republic. Finally, they will get a chance to decorate their own marionettes.

#### Required Materials: (makes 20 puppets)

1. Twenty sheets of cardstock
2. 80 standard round head brass fasteners
3. Markers, paints or any other decorating supplies on hand.

**Preparation:** Print puppet template, cut out limbs and torsos, and use the brass fasteners to attach them to each other. Separate materials out into the amounts needed for your activity groups/tables.

#### Lesson Plan:

1. Begin by asking the children what country we live in, and then help them locate that country on a map or globe. Then show them where the Czech Republic is on a map/globe. (5 mins)
2. Use the powerpoint or printed images to take the children on a tour of the Czech Republic, emphasizing that they have a history of building beautiful and impressive castles. (5 mins)
  - a. First half of the powerpoint highlights the castles of the Czech Republic then show some traditional czech clothes and czech food. (notes on powerpoint)
  - b. Second half of the powerpoint concentrates on puppetry and shows some hand carved czech marionettes. When we did this in class, we also showed some videos of marionette performances on youtube, if you have an extra five minutes or so..
3. Explain the craft activity to the class (10 mins):
  - a. A simple version of this craft can be done with just markers. We have also tried this with adhesive jewels and googly eyes, which worked well if you have them on hand.
  - b. Assembled puppets are given to students to decorate.
  - c. If time allows, the students can be asked to name the puppets and give them a short back story.

