



Make your own Banana Prop - Instructions

Follow the simple instructions below and watch along with the video to learn how to make your very own mini banana prop, just like the giant one from The 91-Storey Treehouse!

A note for grown-ups:

- The activity is recommended for ages 7+ with a grown-up's assistance.
- Please note that the method involves some simple sewing using a needle and thread.

To make your banana, you'll need:

- An A4 printed copy of the Banana Template that can be downloaded from the activity page on the website.
- Some yellow felt (A4 size)
- Some brown felt (A5 size is enough)
- A Marker
- Scissors
- Yellow and brown thread
- A needle (*Be very careful with the sharp needle)
- Some pins (*Be very careful with the sharp pins)
- Some stuffing (we've used some wadding)

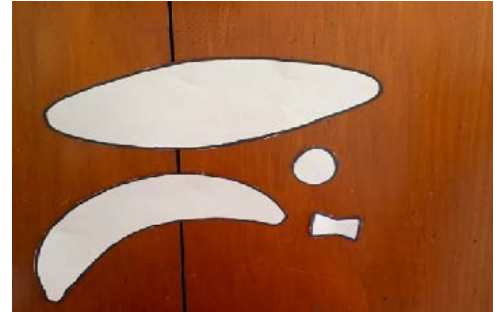


Ryan Dullieu in The 13-Storey Treehouse (image Heidrun Lohr)

Top tip: Using an A4 sized template and an A4 piece of yellow felt will make a small banana. If you want to make a bigger banana you can print the template onto A3 paper and use an A3 piece of yellow felt. Remember, if you make a bigger banana, you'll also need more thread and more stuffing!

Instructions:

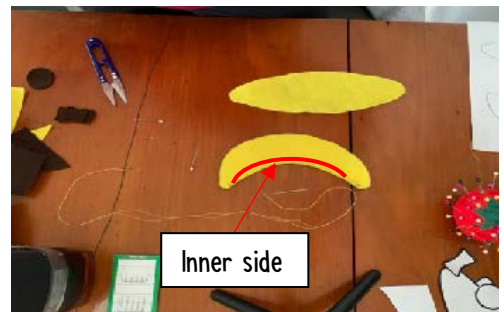
1. Cut out all the shapes from your printed copy of the Banana Template.
2. Place the 3 big shapes on the yellow felt, and the 3 smaller shapes on the brown felt.



3. Trace the outlines of the template pieces onto the felt.
4. Cut out the pieces of felt.
5. Thread your needle with yellow thread.



6. Place the 2 yellow shapes that are the same on top of each other and use a pin to attach them together so they don't move apart.
7. Measure and mark about 2cm from each end of the inner side of banana (see photo to right).



8. Sew together the inner side using a standard up and down stitch (see photo above), between the marks the you've just made.
(Tip: Courtney sews back over the line twice to make it more secure.)
9. Tie off the ends and cut any excess thread. Remember to also remove the pins.

10. Take the final yellow felt shape and line one side of it up with one of the outer sides of the banana that you've just sewn together.

11. Use a pin to keep the pieces in the right place, make a mark 2cm from either end, then sew the pieces together between the marks just like you did in steps 7 to 9.



12. Pin together the remaining sides of the banana, make a mark 2cm from either end, then sew the pieces together between the marks just like you did in steps 7 to 9.

13. Thread the needle with brown thread.

14. Use a pin to secure the brown felt circle piece to the wider opening of the banana so that the 'flaps' are sitting on the brown piece.

15. Sew the brown circle onto the yellow banana.

16. Tie off the ends, cut any excess thread and remember to remove any pins.

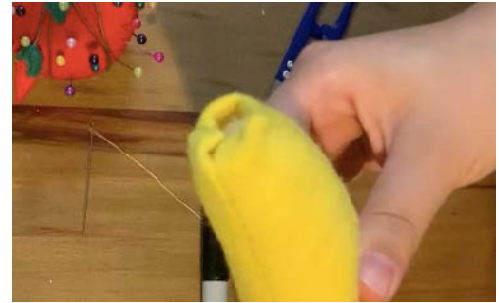


17. Turn the banana inside out.

18. Fill with stuffing!
(Tip: If you don't have any wadding you can use any other soft materials. The more you put in your banana, the firmer it will be.)



19. Once you're happy with the amount of stuffing, tuck the flaps from the open end of the banana into the banana so that there is a small hole for the stem.



20. Take the 2 remaining brown pieces of felt, place them on top of each other, and pin them together to keep them in place. This will be the stem of the banana,



21. Put a small mark near the end of each side (see photo to right), This will be the end that you leave open.

22. Sew together 3 sides of the pieces between your marks. Tie off the ends, cut any excess thread, and remove the pin.

23. Turn the stem inside out.

24. Fill the stem with a little bit of stuffing.



25. Sew together the open end of the stem. Tie off the ends and cut off any excess thread.
(Tip: This doesn't need to be neat as it will be tucked inside the banana.)

26. Place the end of the stem that you've just sewn in step 25, into the open end of your banana.

27. Sew the stem to the banana.
(Tip: Courtney finds that the easiest way to do this is to sew straight through the stem and just on the edges of the banana so that it looks nice and neat.)



And now you're Banana Prop ready!

Here's a photo of Courtney's finished banana!



And some examples of fantastic bananas made by Charlie (7 years old), and Sophie (10 years old)!

