

Museums Make: Pit Ponies

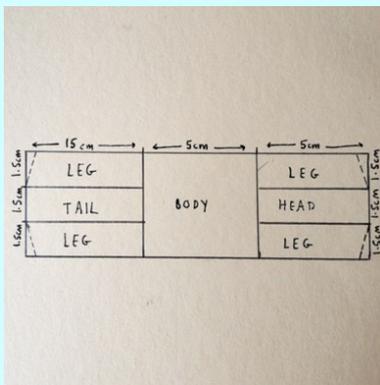
Pit ponies used to work underground in the coal mines to help transport coal. The Fitzwilliam family looked after their pit ponies. Earl Fitzwilliam even awarded a medal to people who were kind to animals. Have a go at making a walking paper pony just using a piece of card. It takes a bit of experimenting to get your pony to walk smoothly but it's worth it when it does.



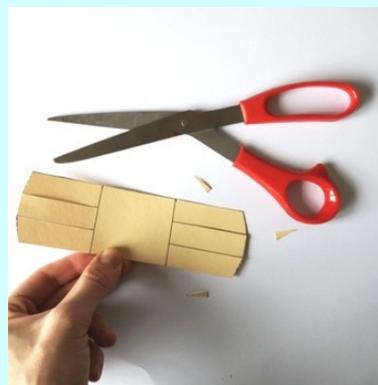
You will need:

Pencil
Ruler
Scissors

A piece of thin card or construction paper
Another piece of card or craft foam for the base of the ramp



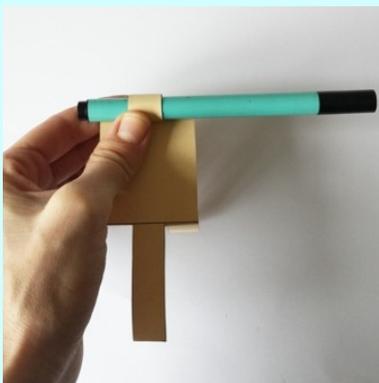
Draw a rectangle measuring 15cm x 4.5cm. Divide it into 5cm sections, and each end section into 3 (as above.) You don't need to label yours. Carefully cut out the rectangle.



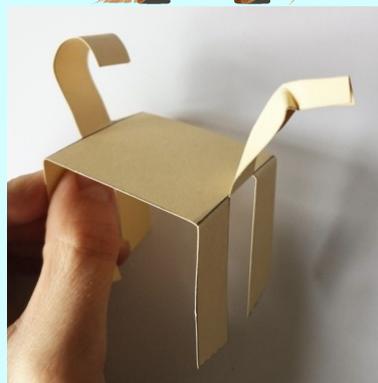
Trim off the corners (dashed lines on the first photo) and cut along the leg lines.



Turn it over and fold back the legs. Make sure they are folded straight as this will help the pony walk. Line them up with the edge of the square of the body.



Curl the tail. It helps to use a pencil or felt tip to curl the card around.



Fold the neck and bend to make a head shape, it helps if the head is held high. You might want to make more ponies so they can walk together.



Make a ramp using books, card a box etc and place your ponies and see how they walk. Experiment with the paper and angle of the ramp. To make your pony walk smoother, try trimming the feet to make them more rounded. The outer edge should be the highest point.