

# Welcome

This resource is designed for all sections of Girlguiding from Rainbows to Trefoil Guild members. With the help of the girls and young women in your unit, choose the activities which are suitable for your section. The activities have been designed to be completed by individuals or as part of a group, within a meeting place, or spread over a term. They could be the inspiration for a section holiday or sleepover event.

The activities are intended to give leaders ideas, but if you or your girls have new or additional activities within the theme of A Night at a Theatre, they can be counted towards the badge(s). Please let us know of any new ideas that we could include at a later date or offer them as a download from the Region website.

Consider setting the scene by arranging a visit to your local theatre to see a production (and this might be a show in your village hall). You could go and see a pantomime, a ballet, a Gang Show – the list of possibilities is endless. What would interest the girls? You could organise a sleepover at your local theatre – perhaps the girls could sleep on the stage! You might be able to put on your own show while there.

To earn your Night at the Theatre badges (see right) we suggest that you turn your meeting, holiday or event into a theatre and explore one or more areas of the resource. There is a choice of badge design and each badge will come with a theatre record card (the inside of which is shown below) for the girls to keep track of the activities they have completed. You can choose to work for the other badge design by exploring a different section of this resource.

Each section of the resource contains factual information with lots of activities. You can adapt each activity to suit your unit's needs.

We hope you enjoy A Night at the Theatre.



## Puppetry

Puppets are human or animal figures that perform on a stage and are manipulated by an unseen operator who usually speaks the dialogue. Puppets come from all over the world and in all sorts of styles, from delicate Chinese shadow puppets to the more modern Muppets. Puppetry is the art of giving life-like characteristics to an inanimate object. Most puppetry involves storytelling. Before the art of animatronics became popular, many of the larger puppets used in film and television had people inside the costumes to make the puppets work.

The art of ventriloquism (making the voice appear to come from a source other than the speaker) has also been associated with the puppet. The manipulator, in full view, talks to the "dummy," a large doll usually held in the lap of the manipulator. The dummy's words appear to issue from its own mouth. Skilful ventriloquists are able to speak the doll's words without moving their lips and to "throw" their voices so that their dummies appear to speak.

We are unsure exactly when the Punch show as we know it really started. The first recorded sighting of Punch in Britain was in 1662. To find a script for a Punch and Judy show, look on [www.punchandjudy.com](http://www.punchandjudy.com)



**Spoon puppets**



**Sock puppet**



**Finger puppets**



**Paper bag puppets**

- Try and borrow some puppets from a local theatre or community group or invite a puppeteer to your meeting. Find out how puppets work.
- Make your own puppets – there are lots of different kinds for you to try:
  - Spoon puppet
  - Cardboard puppet (template - Scene 44 & 45, instructions - Scene 25)
  - Sock puppet
  - Shadow puppet
  - Traditional string puppet
  - Glove puppet
  - Finger puppet
  - Paper bag puppets
  - Pop-up puppets
- Borrow some puppets and put on a puppet show.
- Make a puppet theatre out of a cardboard box eg a shoe box.
- Watch a traditional Punch and Judy show or put on your own.
- Shadow puppets are often used in Asian cultures to retell stories such as Divali – see if you can use shadow puppets to tell a famous story.