St. la's Animal Friends tutorials



Bird



Bend a 6" length of pipe cleaner in half to form bird legs. Use a needle nose pliers to loop the open ends into "feet".



Bend a 6" piece of pipe cleaner into a loop, twisting each end around the other side of the loop a time or two to close it into a circle. Squeeze the circle to form a small head (twist the neck a time or two) and a body (pinching part of the loop into a "tailbone"). Slip the bent-pipe-cleaner "legs" onto the bottom of the body.



Cut a 3" piece of wire (black if possible, if not, color it black with a marker) and bend it in half to form a beak. Loop the bend part of the "beak" through the head loop of the bent-pipe-cleaner head.



Glue or sew the fabric pieces to each side of the bent-pipe-cleaner body. Cut the tail into "tailfeathers" and add eyes (we used beads, but a dot of black fabric glue, a few black stitches, or even a dot of permanent marker would also work).





Cut three 2" pieces of pipe cleaner, and twist them once to hold together as crab legs. Bend just the tips of each leg under, to reduce sharpness.



Use a pliers to bend all three legs of each side at the same angle.



Cut a longer (4-6") piece to twist around all of the crab legs. This piece will become the claws.



Use a needle nose plier to turn the end of each claw inward, forming a large loop.



Use the nose of the pliers to collapse the outer edge of the loop toward the crab legs, shaping the "claw".



Glue or sew the body pieces above and below the crab's limbs, shaping the body. Add the eyes and smile (we used beads and permanent marker, but fabric paint or embroidery floss would also work well).





Form a loop from a piece of 3"-4" pipe cleaner, wrapping each end around the loop to hold the shape. Squeeze the loop to form the fish shape (as seen in the background of this illustration. Glue or sew the fish fabric shapes over the pipe cleaner form. Draw, stitch, or glue on eyes, smile, and fins as desired.