

Home
IS WHERE THE ART IS

PAPER DOLL DESIGNS

Inspired by the
Pattern & Print exhibition

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PATTERN & PRINT PAPER PEOPLE

TASK:

Create a paper doll and design and make a series of different outfits for it to wear.

Visit the Pattern & Print exhibition at the Devonport Regional Gallery between 11th June– 17th July 2021. Look at the colourful and bold designs of the clothing displayed on the mannequins at the exhibition. Look at their use of pattern and embellishment to help gain inspiration for designing your paper people's outfits.



HISTORY OF PAPER DOLLS CONTINUED...



While everybody wears clothing, not everyone wears fashion. In choosing to wear fashion—rather than just clothing—the wearer makes a statement about herself and her sense of identity. Individuals use fashion to place themselves in (or out) of groups, demonstrate their places in society, and communicate not only who they are but also who they aspire to be. But a collection of individuals makes up a society. While fashion choices are ultimately individual, fashion trends reflect society's culture, norms, expectations, and values.

Paper dolls declined in popularity in the 1960s and 70s, and some blame Mattel's Barbie. With her fashionable wardrobe, Barbie fulfilled much of the same fantasy play role as paper dolls. Paper dolls' heyday endured over one hundred years. Today, those dolls and their fashionable paper wardrobes, reflecting the attitudes and assumptions about women's social roles, tell us a lot in the present about how the popular culture of fashion defined women.

From [National Women's History Museum article](#)

View the National Women's History Museum in America showing a collection of historical paper dolls [here](#).



EXAMPLES AND INSPIRATION...



Notice the tabs that stick out past the item of clothing? These will be folded over to hold the clothing onto the doll. Don't forget to draw these on and cut them out too.

And more examples...



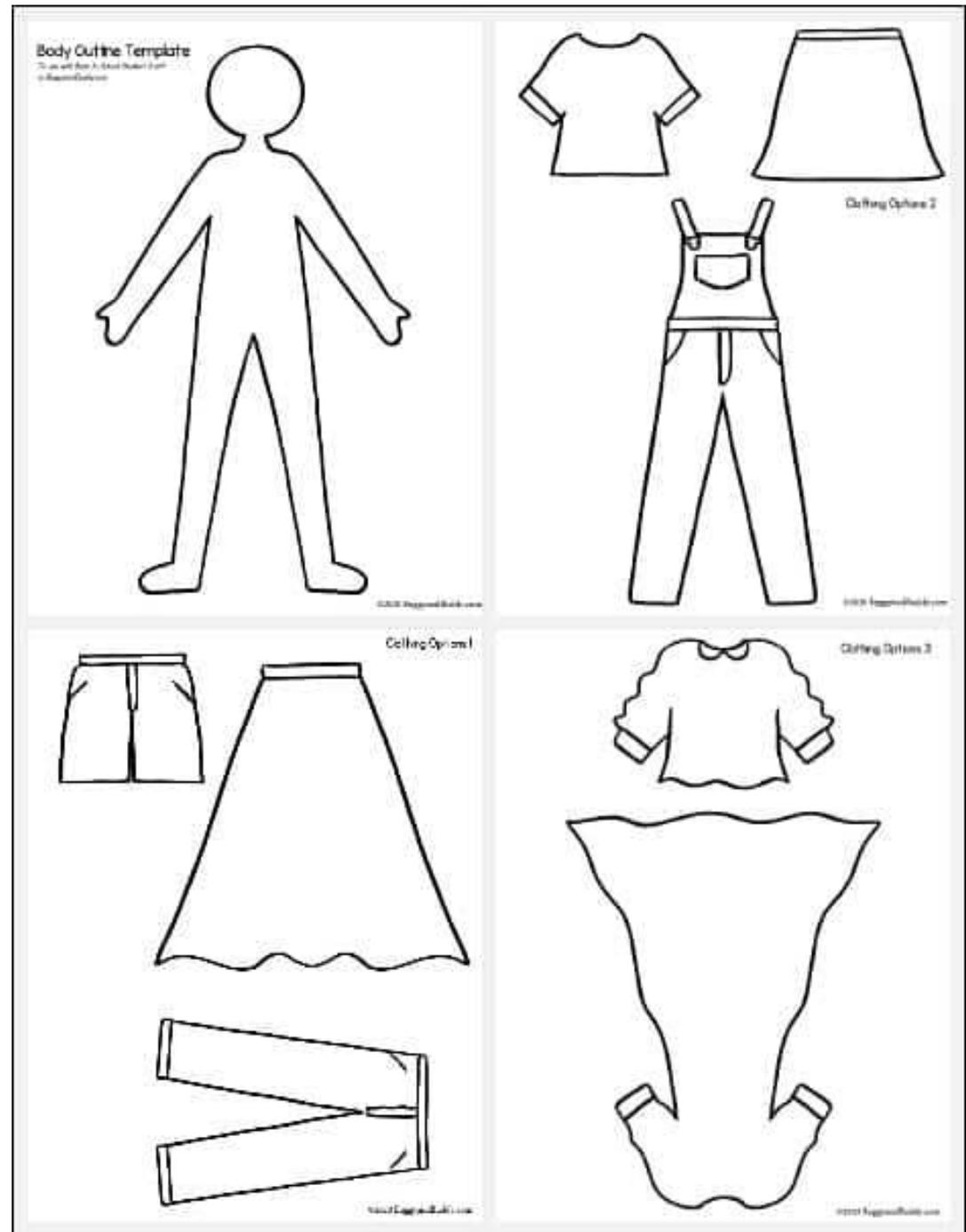
YOU WILL NEED:

- White cartridge paper
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Packing tape or clear contact (optional)
- Tracing paper
- Coloured papers
- Paper doll template (optional)
- Art materials such as coloured pencils, fine liner pens, paints, etc.
- Fabric (optional)
- Embellishments such as beads, sequins, glitter, buttons, etc. (optional)
- Thin cardboard such as that from a cereal packet

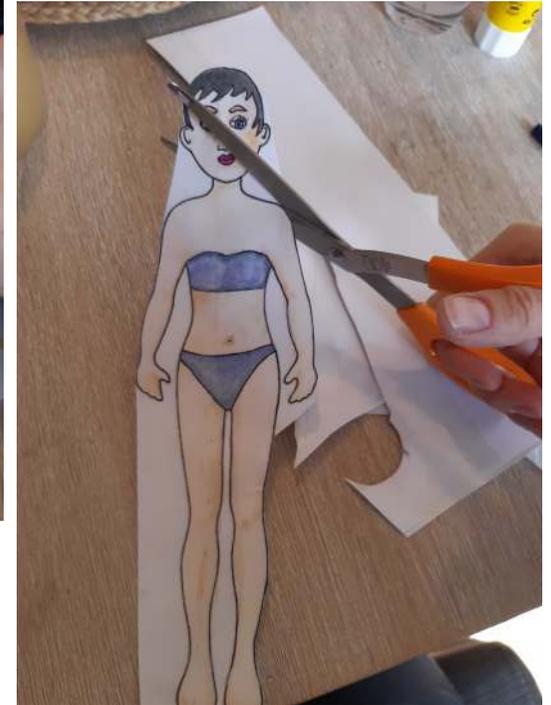
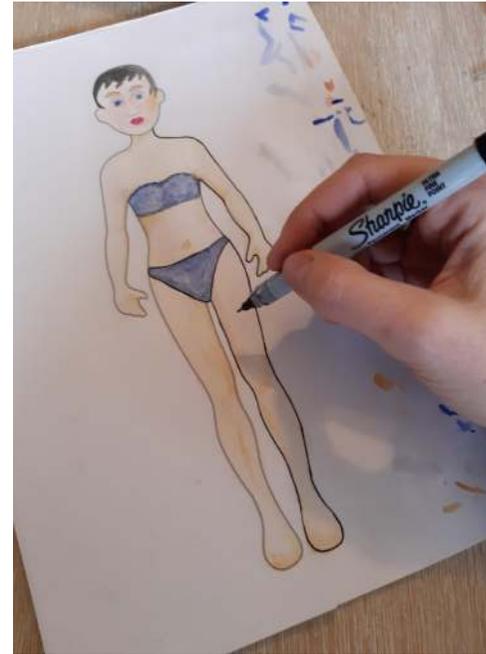
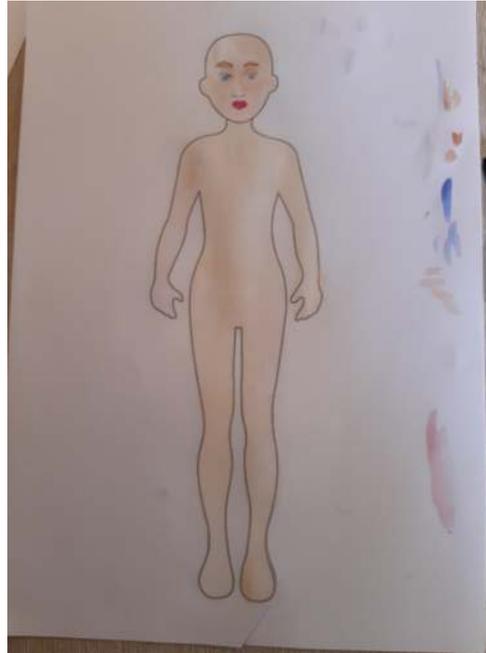


To template or not to template...

If you want to you can use a template for your paper person's body (like the one provided in art packs). Or you can draw your own. Keep the pose fairly simple so you can easily design different outfits to fit. Keep the arms and legs out from the body so that the tabs on the items of clothing can wrap around to hold them onto the body.



Step One:



Make your doll. Draw a simple outline of your doll. You can use the template provided in art packs, draw free hand or find one you like online and trace around it by sticking your page to the screen (see tutorial video on next page). If your outline is on thin paper such as the templates provided in the art packs, stick it onto thin cardboard or thicker paper using a glue stick first to add strength. Colour in your outline using art materials such as watercolour, pencils and paper. Once dried you can cover it with clear packing tape or contact. Then cut it out.

ON-LINE HOW TO INSTRUCTIONS...

A step by step written instructions on how to make a paper doll [HERE.](#)

A quick video with an example of how to make a paper doll [HERE.](#)

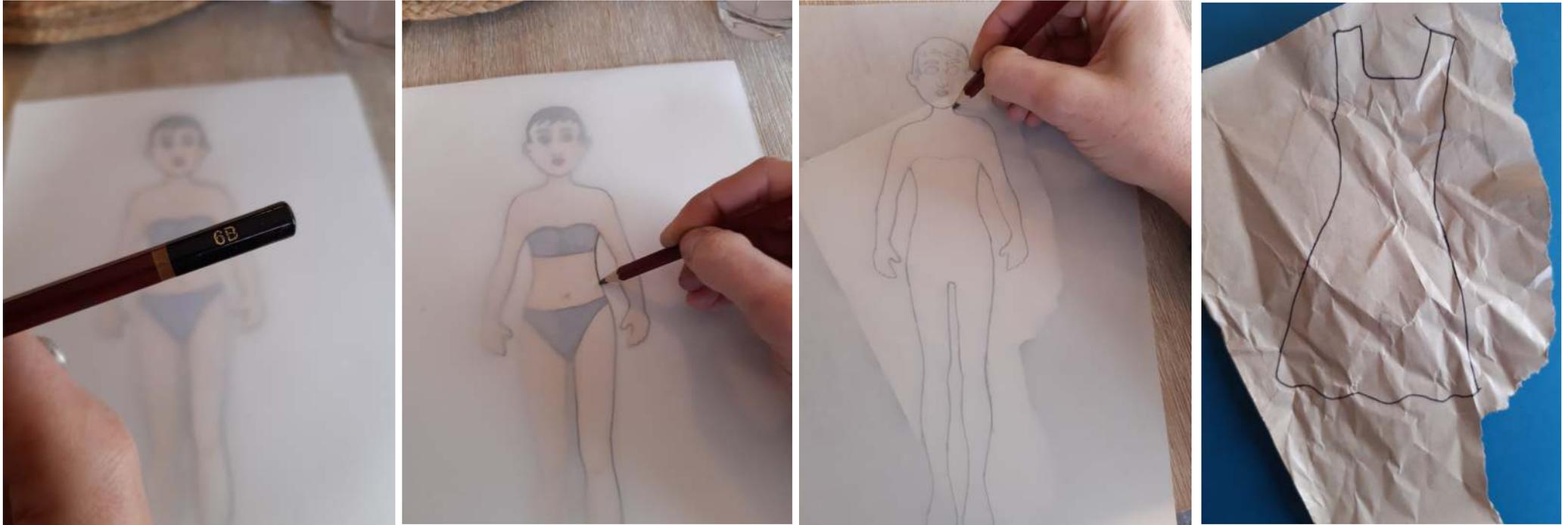


Step Two: DESIGN YOUR DOLLS WARDROBE...

Think about what kind of outfits you would like to make. You might like to stick to a theme to suit your dolls character or create a series of very different outfits that change your dolls look drastically. You could include holiday outfits such as Christmas or Halloween costumes too. Swimwear, Pyjamas, active wear... the choice is yours! Don't forget the accessories...hats, scarfs, sunglasses etc.

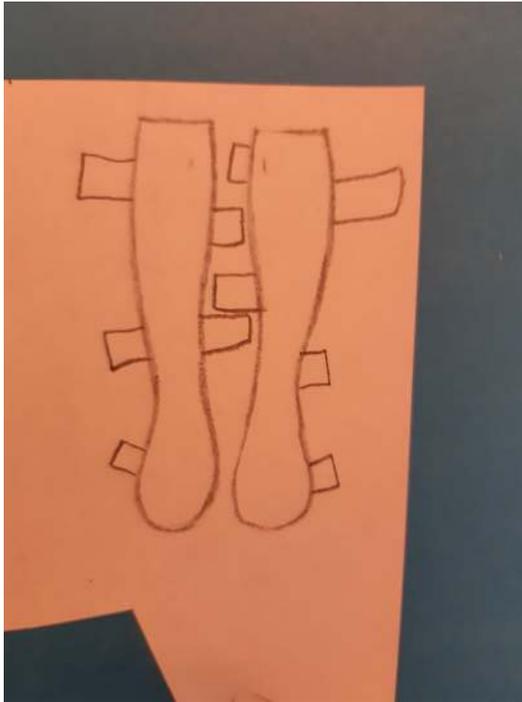


Step Two: Continued...

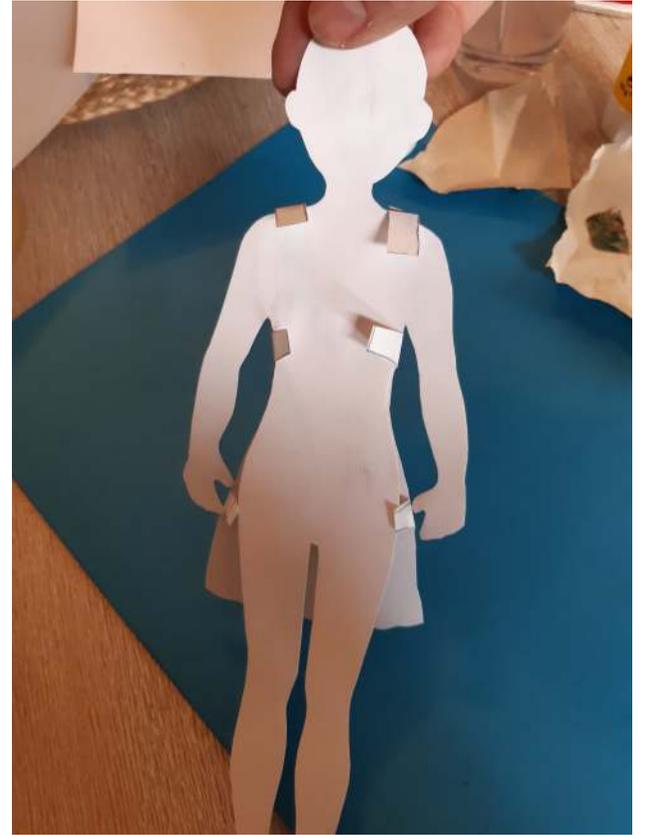


Trace your doll. When you are ready to start making your outfits, use tracing paper to trace the outline of your doll with a soft grey lead pencil such as 6B . Flip the tracing paper over and put onto coloured paper for the outfit. Go back over the outline of the doll drawing to transfer it lightly to the coloured paper where needed. For example if making a top, go over the top half of the doll. This then gives you lines to help you draw your items of clothing so they fit.

Step Three:



Draw your items of clothing. Remember to draw in tabs that will later be folded over to help the clothing stay in place. Remember also when cutting out to leave these tabs on too!



Step Four:



Add decoration and details. Add any patterns, textures, other colours, shading detail and embellishments to your items of clothing.

Step Five:

Make more clothes.

Repeat steps 2, 3 and 4 to create several items of clothing for your doll to wear.



Step Six: Share!



Place your doll on a white plain paper background and dress it in its different outfits and take photos. How many different combinations can you create? Send in your pictures to share! artgallery@devonport.tas.gov.au