

DRAGONS

*This activity is suitable for children aged **Prep to Year 3** as it is aligned to the [Australian Curriculum](#) standards for Visual Arts.*

Create dragons from your favourite book or straight from your imagination.

This enriching workshop teaches alternative construction methods, employing a variety of unconventional materials for you to create a 3D creature, as well as learn about our principles of creative reuse.

Makes: 4 dragons

Level: Easy

Time: 90 to 120 minutes

Materials: Disposable cups & lids
Cardboard rolls
Foam & wadding
Plastic 'sea weed'
Wire, rope & string
Paper & card
Plastic straws & tops
Sticky-back foam
Fabric, felt & leather
Sticky-back plastic

Tools: Scissors
Staplers
Pencil, pen & ruler
PVA, craft glue or water-based paste
Hole puncher
Sticky Tape (but challenge yourself to find alternatives)

Optional tools: Box cutter
Cutting mat
Hot glue gun
Needle & thread
Awl





Before you get started we recommend finding a dragon story to be your muse.

If you don't have a dragon story in mind we recommend these books as a source for inspiration:

[*Kumiko and the Dragon*](#) by Briony Stewart

Space Bat-Angel-Dragon from the [*Iron Man*](#) by Ted Hughes

[*Rascal the Dragon*](#) by Paul Jennings

[*Dragons Love Tacos*](#) by Adam Rubin

[*Zog*](#) by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler (*Zog and the flying doctors*)

[*The Boy Who Lived with Dragons*](#) by Andy Shepherd (and [*The Boy Who Grew Dragons*](#))

[*How to Train Your Dragon*](#) series by Cressida Cowell

[*I Don't Believe in Dragons*](#) by Anna Walker

[*Dragon Post*](#) by Emma Yarlett

[*Puff, The Magic Dragon*](#) by Peter Yarrow

What is so great about dragons is that they can have the features that you really like - whiskers, fire-breathing, little or big wings, long tails, two tails, scales, fur, claws or paws.

What does your dragon look like?



Draw your dragon here or on your own piece of paper.

Your dragon looks fantastically fierce, yet friendly. Thank you so much for sharing your design with us! Now let's move onto the most important part of today...

How will you build your dragon?

To answer this question, we will explore the properties of the materials we'll be using today. So here's another little exercise to get the creative cogs in your brain moving:

This little dragon on the right, looks a little bit like Zog (below). Do you agree?



Have a closer look at our dragon. What materials do you think we used to make it?

What shapes do you see when you look at its eyes, wings or arms?

Our dragon is perched safely in that tree. Do you think its body would have to be made out of a soft or strong material for it to sit up straight for so long?

What about its wings. When it flies through the sky, its wings are going to need to be flexible but strong enough to hold its weight. What types of materials could help our dragon fly?

Write a list of all the materials from your box we might have used to build our dragon.



What did we use to make our dragon?

plastic cap with
sticky-back foam
for the pupil

fur.

foam

paper cup

Paper cup under
the fabric

fabric

**These are the
materials we used to
make our dragon.**

How did you go?



Now it's time to think about what materials you are going to use to make your dragon. Let's revisit your dragon design from Page 2. Take a closer look at your drawing and ask yourself the same question as before:

What does your dragon look like?

Try to reimagine your dragon purely from the materials in your box and spread them out on the table in front of you.

Here are some dragons we prepared earlier.



Grab the dragon design you drew earlier and place it next to your materials. Starting with the **body first**, pick out the materials that you think you will need to build your body.

*This will form the base
of your dragon.*



We think you made some wise choices for your body parts. Great job! Now it's time to join all those parts together. To help you out, here are...

Our tips for joining bits together

- Use the sticky-back foam and sticky-back plastic as an alternative to sticky tape.
- A stapler is your best friend and a great no-glue alternative for fixing foam to cardboard.
- Threading wire through a button hold becomes a strong point for powerful jumping legs or flapping wings.
- If you run out of wire, try using bread ties instead

After you've decided how you want your body to look in 3D form, connected the main body parts together and covered it nicely with fur, skin or scales; the next step is going to be attaching the appendages to your body *i.e.* legs, arm, claws, feet, wings.

Follow the same process and revisit your dragon design. Start by laying your dragon body in front of you and placing the appendages around it.



If you look closely at our dragon, you'll see we used broken bits of binder for our dragon's claws, sticky-back foam for its spine and vinyl for its wings.



This dragon is soft, cuddly and can be hung from a tree.



If you'd like your dragon to hang from a tree, what can you use to reinforce the body so it doesn't sag once it's suspended?

We're almost finished! Let's have a quick recap on what we've covered so far:

Drawn up a design of our dragon

Explored the properties of the materials in our box

Built our dragon's body

Added the appendages

All that's left to do is to add decorations, accessories and facial features to your dragon.

*This part doesn't need instructions.
Use your creative freedom!*



Once the last bits are on, that's it, you're done.

Congratulations, you're now the proud owner of a self-designed, self-built DRAGON!

Our on-line workshop can be found at our [RGQ TV](#) Youtube channel.

We love seeing what our workshop crafters create, so please send us photos or videos.

Otherwise tag us on [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#) with the hashtag,

