



Weber State University

Arts Learning Collaborative

Presents

# THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT

## ONLINE RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS & PARENTS

Directed by: Tamara Goldbogen

Production Design & Puppets: Lisa Leiberling

Actor/Puppeteers: Julianne Avolio, John Michnya

Musician: Lynzee Linnarz

Collaborating Artists: Megan Ann Rasmussen, Erinne Roundy, Jessica Francis

This project is made possible with support from the Utah Division of Arts & Museums, the National Endowment for the Arts, Arts Works for Kids, and Weber State University College of Arts and Humanities.



# BEFORE SEEING THE PLAY

Read *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* by Beatrix Potter:

- [PDF of Text](#)
- [Video of Text Reading](#)

Discuss reactions to the story and the characters.

## Questions for Discussion:

1. Who is the main character of this story? Who are some of the other characters?
2. What are some words to describe Peter at the beginning of the story? Explain.
3. Why is Peter afraid?
4. Why do you think Peter went into Mr. McGregor's garden even after he was warned by his mother?
5. What animals does Peter encounter while he is in Mr. McGregor's garden?
6. How do you think Peter feels at the end of the story? Did Peter change?



# WATCH THE PLAY

[Watch the full performance of \*The Tale of Peter Rabbit\* here \(25 mins\)!](#)



## AFTER SEEING THE PLAY

What characters did you see? What was in the garden? What were the puppets like? What kind of music was used?

The beginning of the play had no words. What do you think happened? Who were the characters?

### Questions for Discussion:

1. Who is the main character in the story? How do you know that?
2. Did you have to use your imagination when you watched this play? Explain.
3. What happened in the story that was surprising? Exciting? Funny? Scary?
4. How was the play different than the story you read at home (if you read the story prior to seeing the play). How was it the same?
5. Did the music help tell the story? How?
6. If the story kept on going, what do you think would happen next?

*\*\* See digital teacher guide for a full list of Utah standards.*

# THE STORY

This production is based on Beatrix Potter's first book *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, originally published in 1902. Beatrix Potter shared her love of nature with millions of children through her distinctively original tales and by preserving the land that inspired them. *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* is the story of Peter; a rabbit who disobeys his mother's warning and goes into Mr. McGregor's garden. Peter eats a lot of vegetables and is almost caught by Mr. McGregor. During the chase he loses his coat and shoes but manages to escape under the garden gate.

**ACTIVITY: Frozen Statues**

# PUPPETS

Our production has a variety of puppets -- **rod puppets** that are controlled by a rod connected to the puppet (like the birds, the cat, the mouse) and **mit puppets** that are controlled by the puppeteer's hand inside the puppet (like Peter Rabbit).

**ACTIVITY: Make a Sock Puppet**

**ACTIVITY: The Adventures of Pocket Bunny**

# MUSIC AND CHARACTERS

One of the ways the musician helps to tell the story is to create musical "themes" or melodies that occur throughout the play. Did you hear Peter Rabbit's theme music? What about Mr. MacGregor's theme? Did you notice that 'twinkle twinkle little star' occurs whenever the sun sets and rises again? Our musician Lynzee is an amazing violinist and an education student at Weber State University!

**ACTIVITY: Rhythm Instruments with a Story**

# PANTOMIME

In the beginning of our production we meet some characters who live in MacGregor's Garden. Do you remember the characters? What story did we tell? How did you know what was happening if there were no words?

**ACTIVITY: This is Not A...**

# ACTIVITY: FROZEN STATUES



Statues is a game where young people quickly shape their own bodies individually and independently to create a frozen "statue" that represents a person, feeling, or idea. This activity uses limited space and it is a great way for young people to practice how to shape their bodies to represent their thinking and understanding.

[Video on how to play Frozen Statues with the actors from \*The Tale of Peter Rabbit!\*](#)

Here are some frozen statues you can make at home. Invite someone in your house to create frozen statues with you. It's fun!!

**Use your body to make a frozen statue of...**

- Peter Rabbit
- Mr. McGregor
- Excited
- Scared
- Happy
- Sad
- Mouse
- Cat

# ACTIVITY: MAKE A SOCK PUPPET

<https://www.instructables.com/id/10-minute-sock-puppet>

This is a tutorial for how to create a simple sock puppet. It's quick, easy, and fun! You will need:

- A sock (tube socks work nicely)
- Buttons (or pennies or googly eyes)
- A marker
- Something to attach stuff to your sock( hot glue works best, although thread and needle also works well)
- Paper or yarn (optional) for decoration



Step 1: Mark the Place for the Eyes

- Put the sock on your hand to get a feel for where the mouth will be. The mouth will be created by the crease between your fingers and thumb.
- Once you have a feel for how you want to hold the puppet and mark where you want the eyes to go with the marker.

Step 2: Attach the Eyes

- Glue or sew the eyes onto the puppet.

Step 3: Customize It!

- This will take your puppet from being a sock with eyes glued on to a personalized sock puppet.
- Attach or draw in anything else you find necessary. It is entirely up to you!
- Just make sure to be creative and adventurous when creating your puppet.

# ACTIVITY: THE ADVENTURES OF POCKET BUNNY



Our friends at the [Pittsburgh Cultural Trust](#) have made a series of videos and at-home puppet activities.

**Make your own playful bunny that fits easily into your pocket so they can always be with you!**

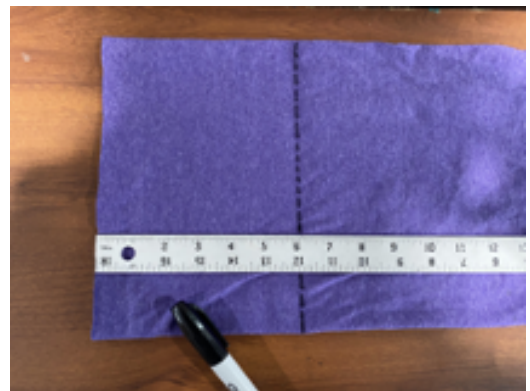
[Video on how to make a pocket bunny!](#)

You will need:

- A t-shirt
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Marker

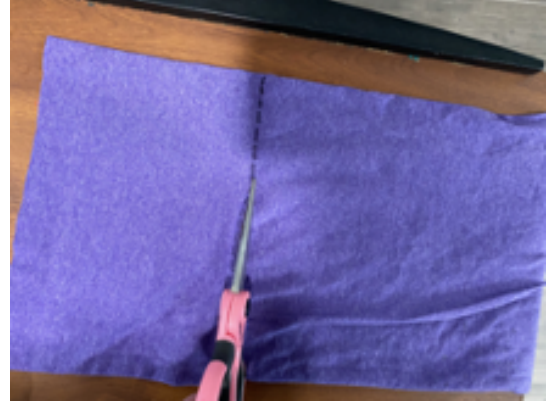
Step 1: Prepare the shirt

- Fold t-shirt in half lengthwise and lay flat.
- Cut off the bottom hem.
- Measure up 6" from bottom of shirt and draw a line
- Put the sock on your hand to get a feel for where the mouth will be. The mouth will be created by the crease between your fingers and thumb.





Step 2: Cut along the line, creating a long loop of fabric



Step 3 Tie the Fabric:

- Starting at one end, tie a knot in the fabric
- Tie a second knot over the first one, leaving one end of the fabric hanging loose



Step 4: Lay the loose end flat and cut in half

- Trim the resulting 2 pieces into ear shapes length-wise all the way down to the knot



Step 5: Trim the resulting 2 pieces into ear shapes



Step 6: Tie a knot at the base of each ear so they stand up like a bunny



Step 7: Use your marker to draw a face for your bunny. Say hello to your new friend!



Step 8: Give your bunny a name and write 1 – 2 sentences about them.

- What do they like to eat?
- Do they have any secret skills?
- What makes them happy?

# POCKET BUNNY, THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES!

You will need:

- Paper
- Pencil
- Crayons
- Markers
- Paint
- Anything else you want to create your drawing with

Now that you have made your pocket bunny, let's send them on an adventure!

Step 1: Decide where they are going? This does not have to be a real place. Use your imagination!

- You can make this adventure whatever you want it to be.
- Your bunny could travel around the universe and find a new planet?
- Or they could travel to a hidden city behind a waterfall?
- Maybe they want to explore a rainforest in Brazil or brave the cold in Greenland?

Step 2: Get a piece of paper and draw your destination.

- You might draw the first thing your bunny sees when they arrive
- Or you might draw a map they are following that shows the location
- Or you might draw a sequence of pictures showing all the places they see



Step 3: Once your drawing is complete, write 2 – 3 sentences about your bunny's adventure.

- Where are they going?
- Why are they going there?
- What do they hope to do?

# POCKET BUNNY MAKES A FRIEND!

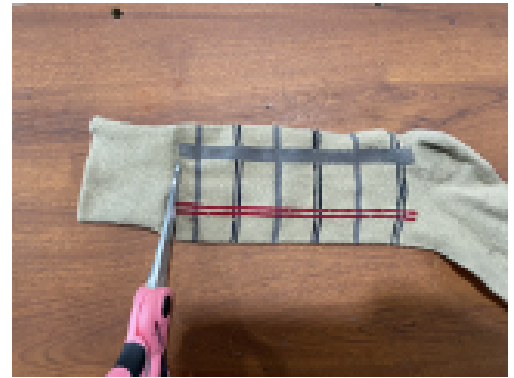
Adventures are much more fun when they are with a friend. So let's make a friend for your pocket bunny out of things we can find around the house.

## Here is one idea: A silly sock inch worm

You will need:

- Sock
- Scissor
- Marker

Step 1: Cut the band off the sock



Step 2: Tie a large knot for the head

- Tie two more knots for the body



Step 3: Draw a face on your new friend



**Use your imagination to transform other objects & arts supplies into creatures and animals**

Here are some more ideas:



Use bottles, lids, fabric, pipe cleaners and googly eyes to make insects



Use lids, toilet paper rolls, googly eyes, and pipe cleaners to make aliens.

Step 4: Write 3 – 4 sentences about them.

- Who are they?
- How did they meet your bunny?
- What do they like to do together?

# POCKET BUNNY FAMILY TIME

Bunnies have large families. So gather up your family and make your very own herd of pocket bunnies!. Once everyone has made one, try one of these fun ways to play with them:



## **Pocket Bunny Chorus**

- Raise your voices and sing your favorite songs together as your pocket bunnies.
- Experiment with different bunny voices. The sillier the better!
- Take turns picking songs.
- Maybe even try to come up with some dance moves you can do with your bunny.

## **Pocket Bunny Fashion Show**

Give your pocket bunny a make-over and experiment with creating fashionable accessories for them to wear, such as tiny hats, bow ties, even sunglasses.

- Use your imagination, try out a theme, such as Halloween costumes, and have lots of fun!
- Now that your bunny is looking their best, it's your turn.
- Create your own accessory that compliments your bunny.
- Once everyone is fabulously fashionable, it is time for the show.
- Create a "runway", put on some fun music, and strut your stuff with your bunny
- Don't forget to strike a pose at the end of the runway.

## **Pocket Bunny Scavenger Hunt**

- Gather up all the pocket bunnies
- Have one person hide them all around one room, while everyone else closes their eyes/waits outside that room
- Everyone comes back into the room and tries to find their own bunny
- Using hot and cold, the person who hid the bunnies indicates if they are close
- When looking, each person can only take two steps then has to see if they are hot/cold before moving more
- Variation: have everyone try to find someone else's bunny, tie a ribbon on one bunny and try to find that one, or have puzzles/questions to be solved to lead people to the location of their bunny

# ACTIVITY: SOUNDS & INSTRUMENTS WITH A STORY

[Interactive video with the musician  
from \*The Tale of Peter Rabbit\*](#)



You will need:

- Variety of instruments (shakers, maracas, rain stick, wood block, finger cymbals) OR anything you have around the house that you can make sounds with (pots, pans, sticks, pens). Get creative!

Step 1: Watch/listen to *Peter and the Wolf* - <https://youtu.be/805gj3bWrgU>

- Each character in *Peter and the Wolf* is represented by a certain instrument/sound.
- **Use the below *Peter and the Wolf* worksheet to match the character to the instrument that represents that character.**

Step 2: Decide which instruments/sound maker (that you have at home) can represent characters in *The Tale of Rabbit* story.


- **Use the below *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* worksheet to draw a picture of your instrument/sound maker.**
- Decide which instrument/sound maker represents which character.

Step 3: Now re-read (or watch!) *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* and play along!

- **PDF of Text:** <https://bit.ly/2JAax24>  
**Video of Text Reading:** [https://youtu.be/p\\_LeUSA-qlq](https://youtu.be/p_LeUSA-qlq)  
**Play:** <https://vimeo.com/327972182/4885035c93>

# Peter and the Wolf

Draw a line matching the character to the instrument.

Peter	
Cat	
Duck	
Bird	
Wolf	
Grandfather	
The Hunters	



# *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*

Draw a picture of your instrument/sound maker matching the characters in Peter Rabbit.

Now play these sounds when each character appears in the show!

<u>Image</u>	<u>Character</u>	<u>Drawing</u>
	Grey Caterpillar	
	Yellow Worm	
	Bumble Bee	
	Dragonfly	
	Butterfly	
	Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cottontail	

	Peter	
	Mother Rabbit	
	Mr. McGregor	
	Birds	
	Mouse	
	Cat	

# ACTIVITY: THIS IS A...

Our friends at the [Nashville Children's Theatre](https://www.nashvillechildrenstheatre.com/) have made a series of 2-minute at home drama activities. They created a video of the **This is a...** game that you can access here: <https://youtu.be/pbhGxHLpR1Y>

## **This is a...**

This is a... asks a student/young person to use their imagination and pantomime skills to transform an object that you have at home into something else.

The object of the game is to transform the OBJECT into something it is not. For example, in the video from the Nashville Children's Theatre, the artist holds up a marker they "transform" into a banana by pantomiming or acting out what you do with a banana. Now try "transforming" your OBJECT into something else. You can play this game with someone in your home -- see if they can guess what you are doing!

Here is what you can say out loud:

**"This is a...(name your object) and also a (name the new object you pantomimed)."**

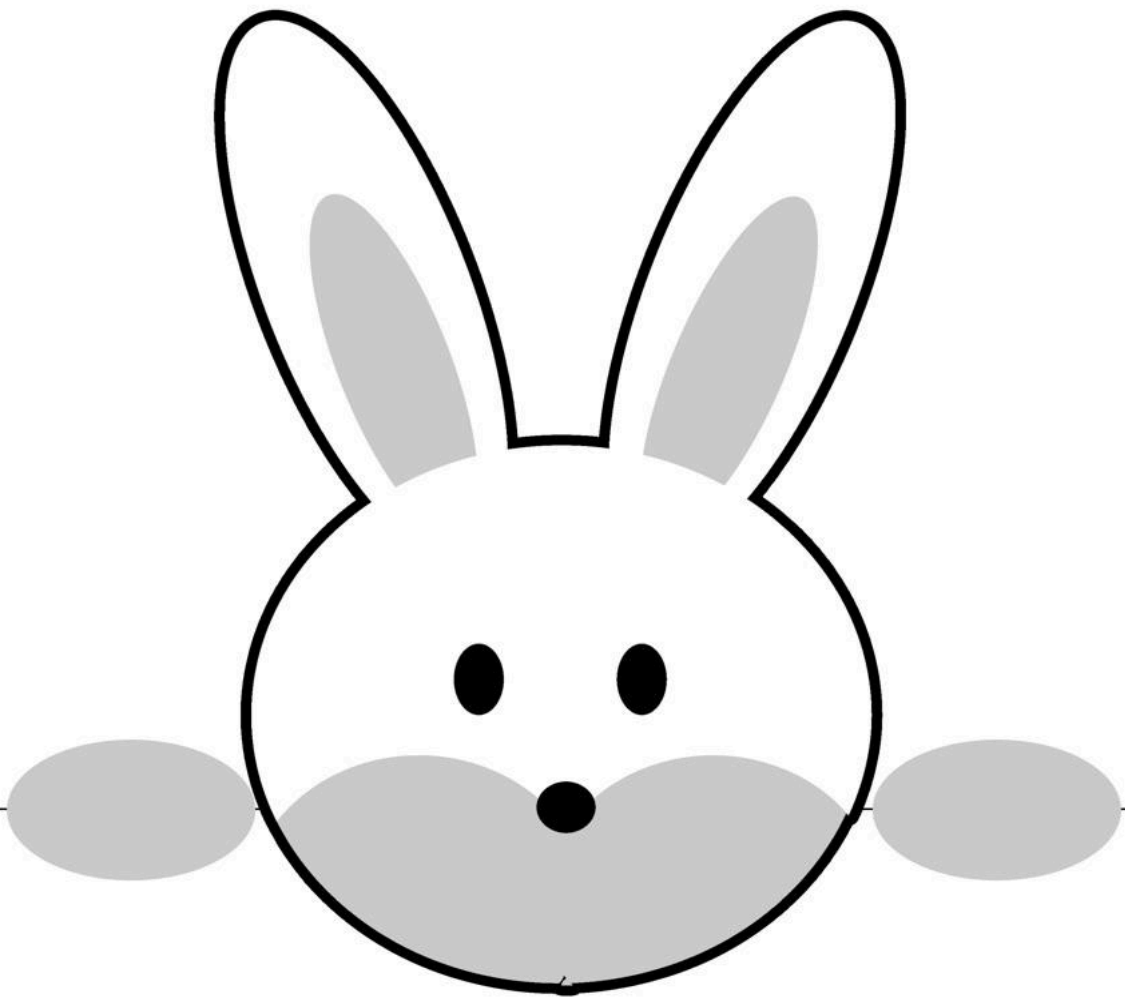
For example, in the video the artist could say "This is a marker, and also a banana!"



# ACTIVITY: PETER WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- **DRAW** a picture for Peter of your favorite part of the play.
- **WRITE** a letter to Peter. What was your favorite part of the story?
- **SEND/EMAIL** to Peter Rabbit at [tamaragoldbogen@weber.edu](mailto:tamaragoldbogen@weber.edu)





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