

STINK BUG PUPPET INSTRUCTIONS

We in the Community Programs team hope you enjoy making this bug puppet at home. Please feel welcome to customise it as you choose, and share your results with us.

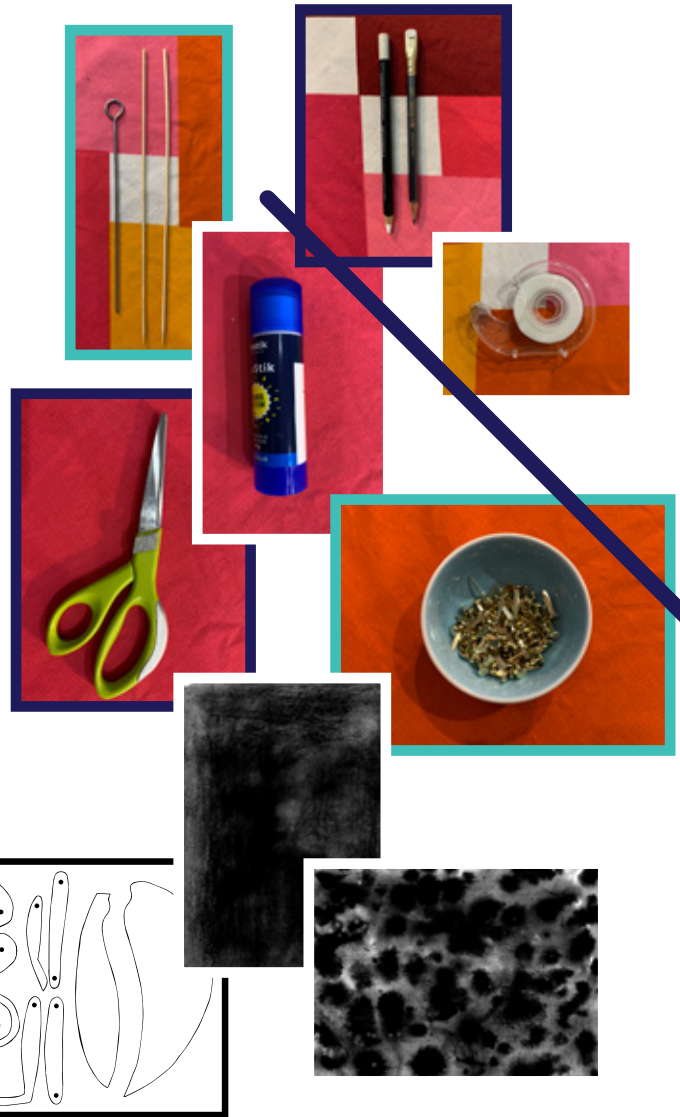
The South Australian Museum has a wonderful team of Entomologists, and a large collection of insect and bug specimens. Many of the critters we have in our collection are roaming around in our backyards, and in parks nearby. So we encourage you to go outside, lift the leaves and branches of the plants around you and wait patiently to see what you can find!

This puppet is based on a colony of Stink Bugs, or Pittosporum Shield bug (*Pseudopines geminata*), found by one of our team members. These bugs were busy at work eating up a plant in her backyard. We hope you have fun making your own bug puppet at home and perhaps putting on a show for the people at your house!



MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

- Either print out the nifty PDF template and collage paper or find some black cardboard, or any paper or cardboard you have (coloured or plain)
- Either a grey lead or white pencil, or some chalk
- Scissors
- Sticky tape
- Glue stick
- Some skewers
- Split pins
- A medium sized stick, large paintbrush or 30cm ruler



PROCESS

Step 1:

We've prepared this template so that you can cut out and customise a bug puppet as you choose. Alternatively you can do your own drawing and make your own bug puppet character. Whichever one you choose, take either your template or drawings and cut it out in sections.

Step 2:

The next step is to trace your cut out pieces onto the collage paper in this PDF (or perhaps you could make your own, or even recycle some wrapping paper). Take your bug shell and position it on the paper where you think it would look good and then trace around it and cut out the shape.

Step 3:

You can use the darker collage paper for the front of the beetle and also for the legs and both pieces of the head. Of course, you can choose any paper you like for this to make your bug as colourful and patterned as you like!

Step 4:

Once you've traced everything, cut the paper up into the puppet pieces.

Step 5:

Once you've gotten all of your pieces cut out, it's time to stick some of them together and put little holes into some of the other pieces and use the split pins.

Step 6:

You'll need to take the two pieces of your shell (front and back) and stick them together with sticky tape, on the back. No need to be too precise. The main thing is that we're having fun and making something cool.

Step 7:

Next we'll need our skewers and our split pins. The skewer is quite sharp so if you happen to be someone who doesn't often use sharp things by themselves, it's a good idea to get someone to help you, possibly an adult. First, we're going to attach the head and the jaw. You'll need to put your pieces together overlapping, and then choose a spot where you think it would be good to attach them to make your head part talk.

Step 8:

Poke a little hole through the spot, and place your two pieces together, lining up the hole. Then take your split pin and put that through the hole and bend the bits at the back over. Now your bug should be able to talk!

We hope you have enjoyed making a puppet with us! Don't forget to share your results by tagging us on social media:



@southaustralianmuseum
#MySAMuseum
#STEMyourboredom



southaustralianmuseum

Step 9:

Now to put the legs together and attach everything to the shell. Simply repeat the process of choosing a good spot to poke a hole on the legs and arms, and attach them using the split pins. Then you can poke holes on the front of your bug shell and attach the arms and legs.

You might notice there are only 4 arms and legs in total, when true insects have 6 legs. This is to make it a little simpler to operate, but go ahead and cut the full 6 arms and legs if you like!

Step 10:

Once you have all of the pieces of the puppet put together, you can cut out the eye, colour it in as you choose and glue it on with your glue stick.

Step 11:

The next step is to stick some skewers on the back so you can operate your puppet. Stick skewers to either of the head pieces, the arms and perhaps the legs too.

Step 12:

Lastly, take either a stick, large paintbrush or ruler and stick it on the back of your puppet so you can hold it up. Make sure you use plenty of tape as it comes loose quite easily. Now your puppet can be operated by you and moved about. Time to put on a show!

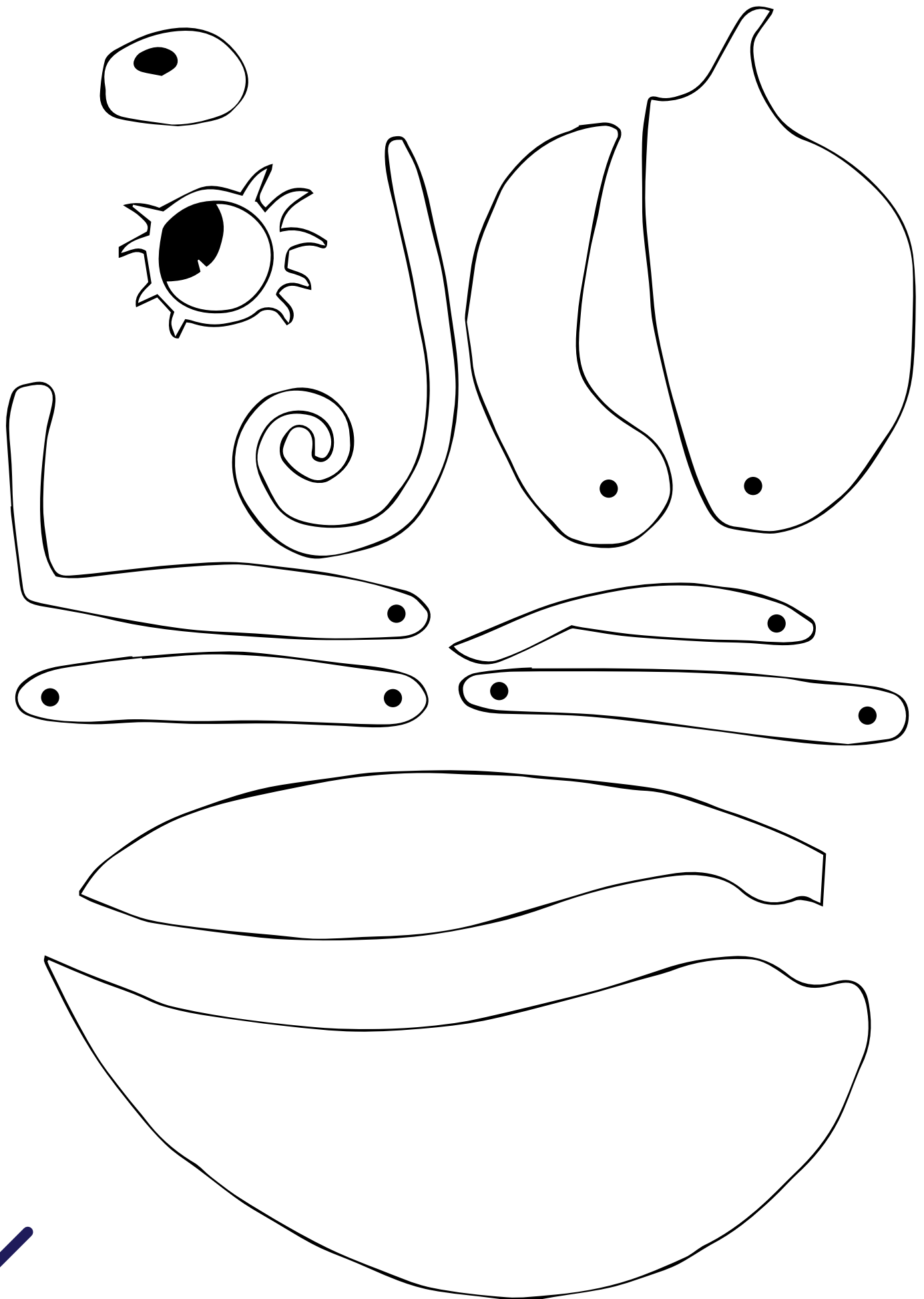
We look forward to seeing your creations and to seeing you again soon at the South Australian Museum!



Government
of South Australia



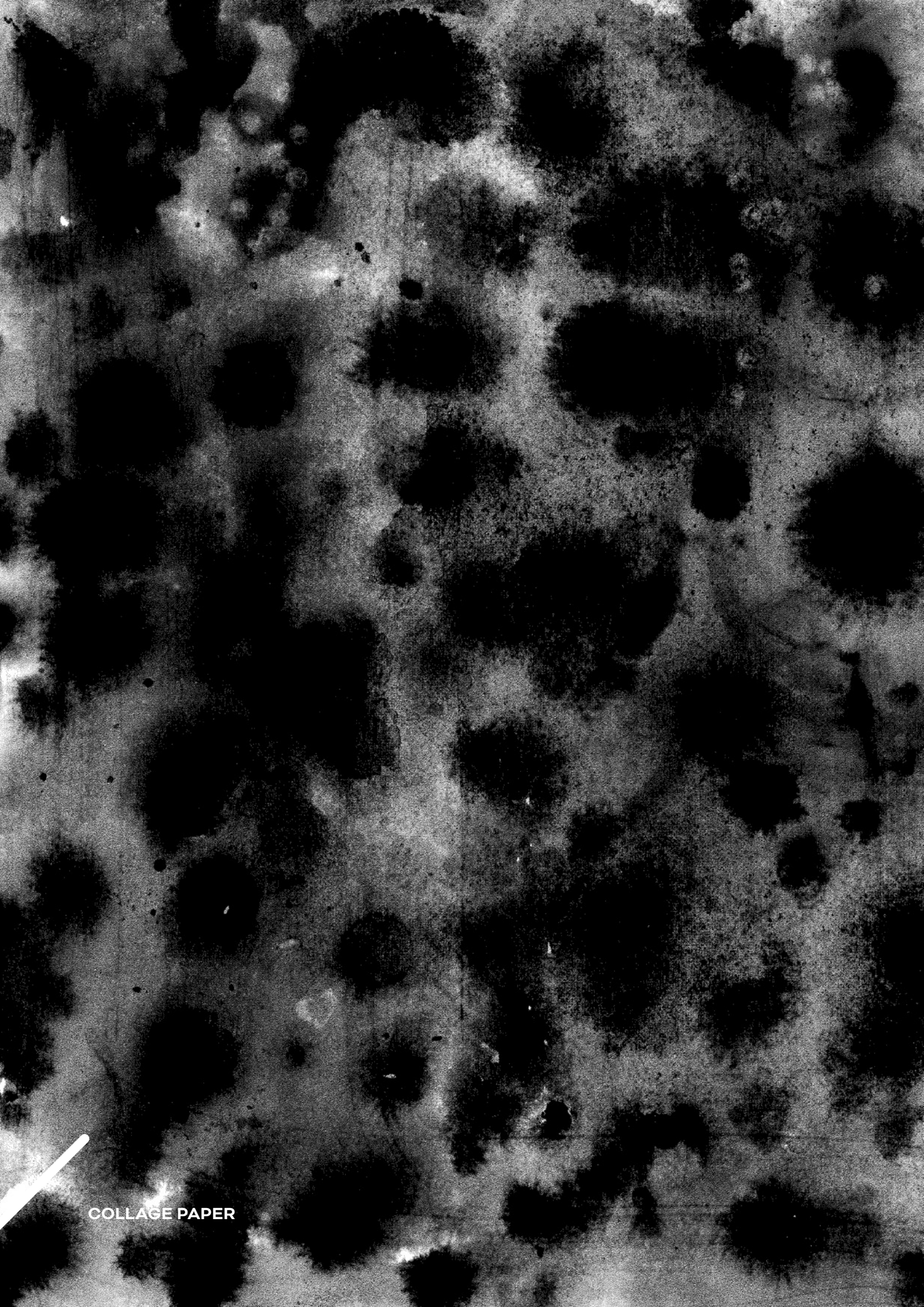
SOUTH
AUSTRALIAN
MUSEUM



STINK BUG PUPPET CUT OUTS



COLLAGE PAPER



COLLAGE PAPER