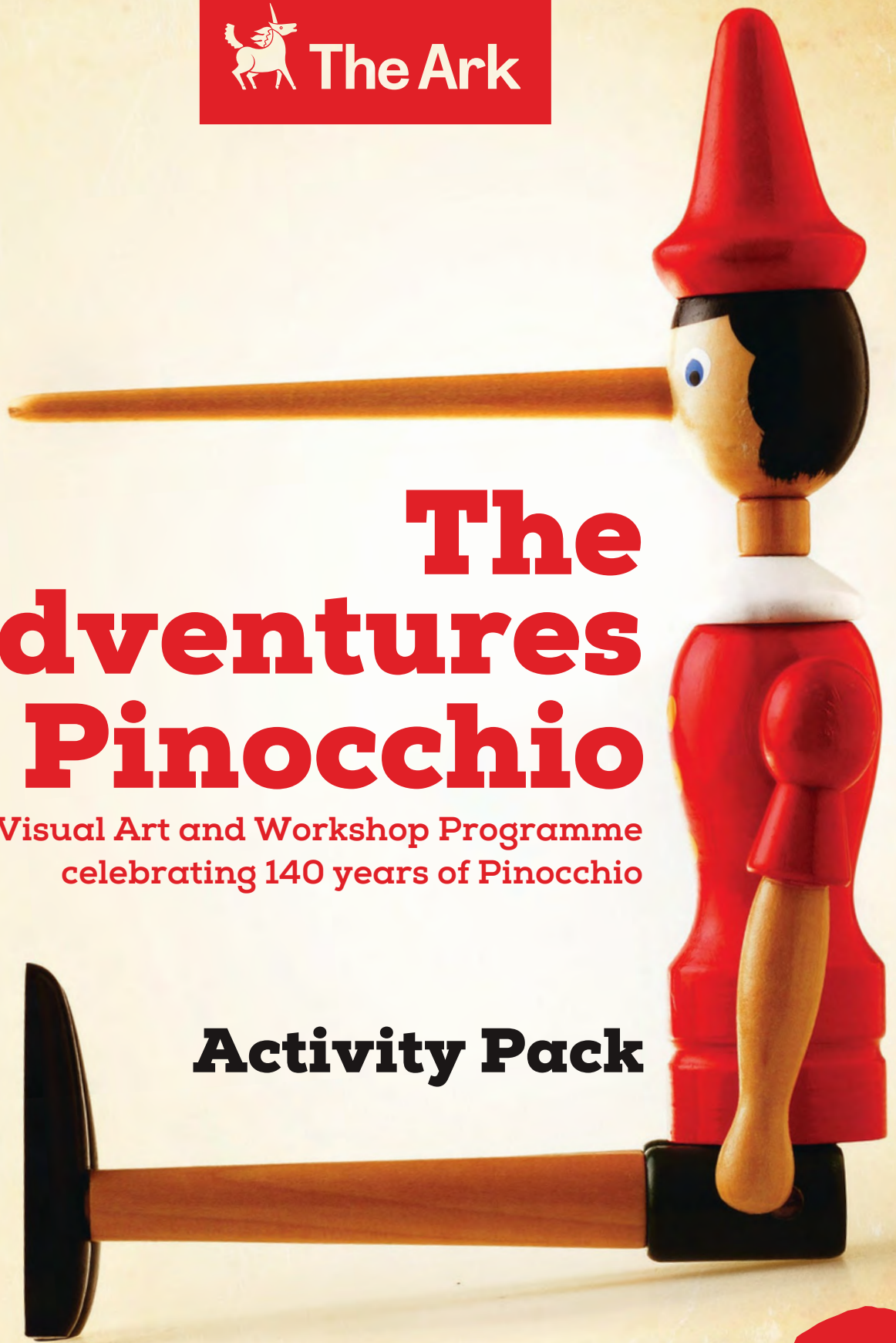




The Ark



# The Adventures of Pinocchio

Visual Art and Workshop Programme  
celebrating 140 years of Pinocchio

## Activity Pack

VISUAL ARTS  
4-12  
AGES

A poor carpenter named Geppetto had a single, humble desire: to have a son. One day, he has a great idea and decides to carve a wooden puppet that, to his surprise comes to life.



As soon as he can walk the puppet runs out the door and into the town where he is almost immediately cast into a series of extraordinary adventures.

His name? **Pinocchio**.

Carlo Collodi's *Pinocchio* has been translated into over 280 languages and dialects and has been the subject of countless films and television series, but here we focus on the illustrated story.

The following activities are designed to invite children aged 5-12 to try their hand at their own illustrations inspired by the classic story of the puppet who longed to be a real boy.

If you are in the classroom, teachers should introduce Pinocchio's story and its main characters, before engaging in the following activities. [Click here for suggestions for books to read.](#)

## Activity 1: Create your own Pinocchio story



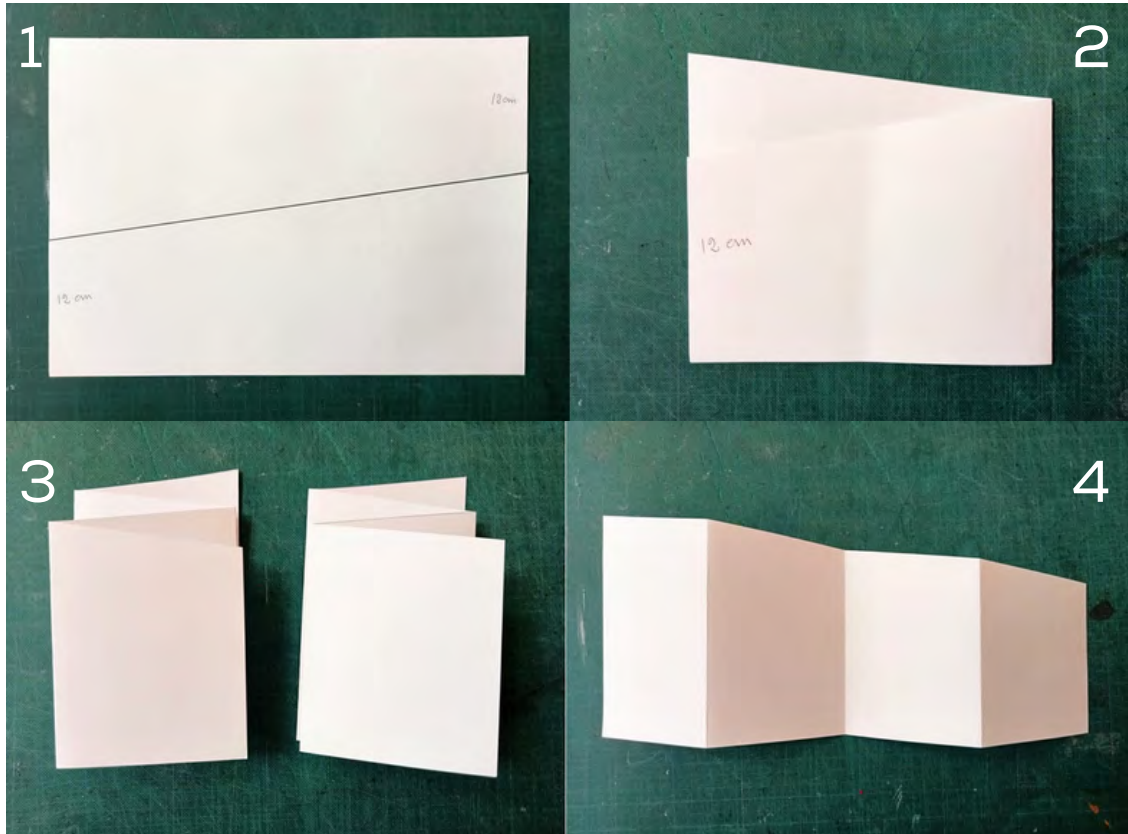
**Create:** The story of Pinocchio has been told and re-told many times in books and on film, and been interpreted from various different angles and with multiple themes since the original was published by Collodi in 1881. Some artists have chosen to closely follow the original story but others have changed it by introducing new characters, new elements or have set the story in different locations or times in history. This happens very often with stories that strongly catch people's imagination.



With the following activity, we suggest that children do exactly the same: create their own version of Pinocchio's story to illustrate in a simple folded booklet. You can explore and experiment, choosing freely within the material made available in the classroom and find creative solutions including pop-up elements, collage and block printing (using sponges or rubber stamps if available).

Below is a simple way to making a booklet with an interesting fold.

**Materials required:** A3 white card, pencils, a mix of markers, colour pencils and crayons, patterned paper (Origami type, or wrapping paper), glue, scissors. Letter stencils, rubber stamp letters and ink pads if available.



1. Cut an A3 sheet of white card starting from 12cm up on the left side of the page across to 12cm down from the right side of the page to get two pieces of paper.
2. Fold each in half.
3. Fold back each half again to get a concertina style folded booklet.
4. Each child is given one folded sheet to work on.

Start working on your story by creating your own Pinocchio on one panel and then moving on to the next ones by introducing different characters.

It is important that the children are free to choose what medium they prefer to work with.

Below are samples created by children during workshops at The Ark.



## Activity 2: Create a character

In *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, there are many adventures involving good people and bad people ... adults and children ... dozens of animals (dogs, polecats, cats, donkeys, dogfish, pigeons, foxes, tuna fish, snails, snakes, crickets...). All these creatures, whether human or animal, display between them a huge variety of attitudes, feelings and behaviours, including anger, cruelty, spitefulness, deception, envy, laziness, selfishness – on the one side – and also kindness, forgiveness, cooperation, generosity, truthfulness, self-sacrifice, and love!

**Create:** Think of a character or characters from the story that you liked, or not, and make one or more of them out of cardboard. You could also invent a totally new character and give the Pinocchio story a new direction!

**Materials required:** Flat or corrugated brown cardboard sheets, paint, markers, scissors and glue. A 3D version of this activity could be made by using plasticine.



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