



Meet DENNY, the Farmland Mouse, and follow him on his adventures around the Museum!

Denny lives in the field at the side of the Farmland Museum, just behind the pond. He is a very small mouse, weighing only about 6g - the same as a 2 pence piece. He has a blunt nose, small hairy ears, sensitive forepaws and a prehensile tail, which he can wrap around a plant stem to keep him from falling. His fur is a russet-orange and he has a white tummy. He is well adapted to climb the stalks of the grasses because of his light weight.



In the early morning quiet, he comes out of his nest in the tall grasses and begins his hunt for breakfast. Perhaps he can find a juicy worm? Or some seeds would be very nice! First, he runs up the little slope to the edge of the pond, takes a quick drink and has a look around to check that there is nothing in the fields that might like to catch him. He has to look out for Wilf the weasel in particular!

All clear! He runs back down the slope and begins to go through the long grasses growing by the fence. In the spring there will be some pretty wild flowers there but now there is just grass. He darts quickly amongst the stems, finding a few seeds to eat as he works his way down towards the buildings.

Denny runs past some pieces of machinery on the grass. He has heard visitors to the museum talking about them. They are called ploughs, and were pulled by horses. They were used in the old days to prepare the fields for planting crops. He has seen much bigger machines with engines being used nowadays.



Suddenly he spots something wriggling in the grass, Aha! One of those nice juicy worms he wanted for his breakfast. Mmmm! That's better. He's now ready to do some more exploring. Round the corner of the building he finds the entrance to an old Village Shop and squeezes under the door for a look around.

Immediately he can see a glass case with some interesting looking cakes and biscuits inside. How to get at them? He scuttles round behind the case and scrambles up onto the shelf. Ahh! There they are. He excitedly goes to take a bite from a gingerbread man biscuit BUT, oh dear! It's not a real biscuit. How disappointing.

He takes a quick look around and sees lots of tins and packages on the shelves and some strange looking things hanging from the ceiling. What on earth are those? They look as if they are made from willow branches. Denny will have to come back when there are people around and he can hear them talking about what they can see. He knows the things in here are very old.



*Do you know what the items in the picture are?
(If not the answer is at the bottom of the next page!)*

Denny will be back for more adventures soon! Until then, why don't you have a go at making your own mouse hand puppet?



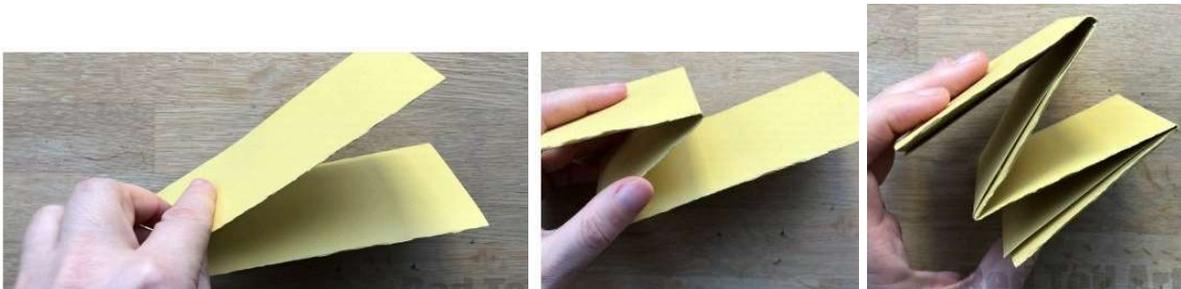
You will need:

- one A4 sheet of paper (any colour)
- scraps of paper in different colour
- pink paper (if possible)
- pens
- glue stick
- scissors

Begin by folding your A4 sheet of paper in 3 length wise. Secure with some glue.



With the seam of your fold on the outside, fold your paper in half. Then fold over a flap. Flip and fold over the other side. You will end up with a type of "M". The point in the middle will be your mouth.



This picture shows how your fingers fit into the folded shape, creating a mouth that you can open and close.

Then you need to add the features.

With your other pieces of paper, you can make two big ears with some pink "bits" in the middle, some mouse eyes, a pink mouse nose and some whiskers.

Glue them all in place. With the eyes you can experiment – perhaps bring them closer together or further apart (have fun by making them look to the sides or cross eyed.)



(Mystery Object is a Carpet Beater – used for cleaning carpets in the days before vacuum cleaners.)