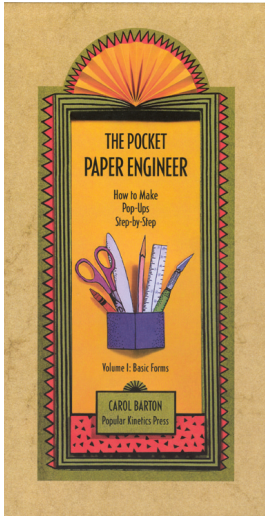


# Animal Pop-Ups for Kids to Make!

## Three fun and educational lessons in the natural sciences



Designing pop-up illustrations of birds, animals, reptiles and insects can enliven a student's study of nature and the environment. Kids can either draw their own animal images or use photos of creatures and creature parts (eyes, beaks, fins) to collage onto pop-up forms. Follow the step-by-step instructions in Carol Barton's **The Pocket Paper Engineer** workbooks (*Popular Kinetics Press, 2005*) to learn how to construct the pop-ups.

### Talking Mouth Creatures

Younger children can document their early encounters with animals and insects by drawing pictures of cats, caterpillars and other creatures with pop-up mouths and beaks. The talking mouth pop-up consists of two simple cut-and-fold triangles as described in **Volume 1** of **The Pocket Paper Engineer**. Mouth edges can be shaped to suggest teeth or lips. The pop-up works wonderfully as a bird's beak or crocodile's jaw, for example. Stories or information on the animals can be added, either as running text below the pop-up illustration or as speech bubbles. This reinforces writing and literacy skills. Kids will love this project!

### A Lesson in Animal Classification

Children can begin to learn about scientific classification by initially grouping animals according to their shapes. Animals with large, flat body surfaces such as flounder, turtles, and crabs can be constructed as "floating platform" pop-ups described in **Volume 2** of **The Pocket Paper Engineer**. Coiled creatures, or those with curling tentacles and tails (snakes, octopuses) can be illustrated using spiral pop-ups, described in the same workbook. Making these pop-ups can lead to a discussion about how animals are grouped by their characteristics into classes and subclasses.

### A Lesson in Animal Habitats

Scenes showing animals within their natural habitats can be created using the pop-up prop format. Props are pop-up pictures connected to the page with hidden paper tabs. Props can be layered together to create a theatrical diorama with background, flora, and fauna. Creating these types of pop-up environments encourages students to learn about the world around them and discuss how natural elements work together to create viable ecosystems. Narrative text can be added, covering such varied subjects as food sources, plant types, climate, geography, and the traits of animals illustrated within the pop-up construction. Props are covered in **Volume 2** of **The Pocket Paper Engineer**.

Creating pop-ups is an ideal cross-curriculum activity. It encourages kids to think and experiment within a fun, playful medium and can serve to teach them valuable lessons in the natural sciences and other subjects. **For more ideas and examples, visit:**

[www.popularkinetics.com](http://www.popularkinetics.com)



**The Pocket Paper Engineer**  
**How to Make Pop-Ups Step-By-Step**  
by Carol Barton