

## CRAFT

# DIY PLUSH SLOTHS

## AGES

Teens

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Everybody needs a pocket sloth! Using felt sheets and a simple hand sewing technique—the whip stitch—teens make adorable plush sloths. Add snaps or Velcro to the arms to hang the sloths from any nearby “branch.” See Printables for template suggestion. Suggested runtime: 90–120 minutes



Image source: CSLP

## TIP:

You can also demonstrate (or show videos) of basic embroidery stitches so teens can embellish the sloths or modify their facial expressions. It is easiest to embellish the sloth first, before whip stitching the edges and definitely before adding the stuffing. Alternatively, teens can hot glue embellishments such as felt hats or hearts.

## MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

You will need:

- Felt sheets in at least three colors
- Polyester filling or cotton balls
- Sewing needles
- Embroidery thread
- Velcro or snaps (optional)
- Paper and pencils
- Scissors
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks
- Printed patterns (see Printables)

Make a sample sloth. During the program, give each teen a template and let them pick out felt colors (they will need one sheet for the body color,  $\frac{1}{4}$  sheet for the face color, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  sheet for the eye and nose color). After a basic whipstitch tutorial, teens add the face and eyes, then whip stitch the two body pieces together, leaving a 2” opening to stuff the sloth before finishing the seam. Add snaps or Velcro to the arms and feet.

## UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

Have a volunteer or two on hand for larger groups to troubleshoot sewing snags.

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## RESOURCE

**Web**

Felt pocket sloth tutorial: <https://bit.ly/2WHM02r>

Repurposed sock sloth tutorial: <https://bit.ly/2ZmvZRv>

Easy whipstitch tutorial: <https://www.wikihow.com/Whipstitch>

Basic embroidery stitches: <https://bit.ly/3dV92IY>

**Nonfiction**

*Sewing for Kids: 30 Fun Projects to Hand and Machine Sew* (2019) by Alexa Ward (middle grade)

*Sewing School Fashion Design: Make Your Own Wardrobe...* (2019) by Amy Petronia Plumley and Andria Lisle (middle grade)

*The Little Booth of Sloth Philosophy* (2018) by Jennifer McCartney (YA)

**Sloth Fiction**

*A Little Book of Sloth* (2013) by Lucy Cooke (picture book)

*Bat and Sloth Hang Around* (2020) by Leslie Kimmelman and Seb Braun (early reader)

*Lea Leads the Way* (2016) by Lisa Yee and Sarah Davis (middle grade)

*Peter and Ernesto: A Tale of Two Sloths* (2018) (or any Peter and Ernesto book) by Annabelle Graham (middle grade)

*Slothilda: Living the Sloth Life* (2018) by Dante Fabiero (YA)

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## PRINTABLES

## Pocket Sloth Template

