

Camel Puppet Scripts (enlarged font for easier reading)

by Marilyn Alexander

(A printable puppet is found at the end of this document. Also, a visual aid for Part 3 is found below.)

Part 1

Hello, children. I'm a camel. You may call me Camille if you wish. You may not think I'm beautiful, but I am, for that's what my name means—"beauty." If you have a different opinion about my outward appearance, I can tell you that my Maker, the Lord of heaven and earth, made me so perfectly adaptable to my needs and environment that you would have to call my body a beauty. I could take all day to tell you about the unique and awesome characteristics that God built into me, but today I will stop at only five.

1. My hump. I am a dromedary; I have only one hump. Bactrian camels that live in the Gobi Desert of Asia have two humps. Our humps store fat as energy; I can store 80 lbs of fat in my hump. This fatty tank reduces the heat-trapping insulation across my body, allowing me to survive under intense heat. [Say this sadly,] but my hump gets soft and flabby when my fat stores run out.

2. My legs and feet. All camels have wide-toed hoofs with nails and big, flat footpads to keep them from sinking into snow or sand. We move both legs on one side of the body forward at the same time, like giraffes and race horses. We can kick in all directions. We can also run very fast, up to 65 miles per hour. In fact, some places have camel races. Six-year-old boy jockeys have Velcro sewed onto their pants so that they can stay on me as they race. Riding behind my hump, they hit my face with a stick in order to keep me going in the right direction. I can't race that fast for long distances; although I can average running 25 miles per hour. I prefer to walk at about 3.5 miles per hour.

3. My spit. My spitting is essentially a throwing up of a foul-smelling greenish stomach fluid. If you don't want to stink terribly, don't threaten me, I'll tell ya.

4. My eyes. We camels actually have three eyelids! Two of them have lashes, and the third is thin. In sand storms I shut my eyes but can still see well through my thin eyelids.

5. My size and age. I have a long neck so that I can reach high branches and so that I can dip my head to drink and graze without having to bend my legs. I'm about 6 feet tall at my shoulder, while my height up to my hump is about 7 feet. Most of us live about 40 to 50 years.

See how beautiful I am? Didn't Christ the Creator make me special?

Part 2 (A possible visual aid for this skit is a 5-gallon bucket for the information in the last paragraph.)

Hey there, kids. I'm back! Remember me, Camille Camel, the beauty of the desert? Today I'm going to talk about four more wonderful features built into this beautiful body of mine by the Creator God. Here they are:

1. My blood cells. Unlike other mammals, camels have oval-shaped red blood cells. Don't ask me how God does this, but this design ensures that my blood will flow even if I become dehydrated. That brings up another cool feature.
2. My sweat. I rarely sweat; so I can conserve fluids for long periods of time. In fact, while most mammals can lose only 15% of their body fluids before becoming dehydrated, I can lose 25% of my body fluids. Also, God made my coat to reflect rather than absorb sunlight.
3. My nostrils. I can close my nostrils against wind and sand and still be able to breathe. You know that when we exhale, we all breathe out water vapor. I do too, but Christ, my Creator made my nostrils to trap water vapor and return it to my body fluids.
4. My ability to drink water. In winter, eating plants gives me enough moisture to live without water for several weeks. When I do refill, however, I can soak up water like a sponge. If I'm really thirsty, I can drink 30 gallons of water in only 13 minutes. Oh, what a perfect design!

Can you imagine the work Rebekah had to do in order to satisfy ten camels after crossing a desert? Do the math. Let's say Rebekah had a five-gallon pail like this. [Teacher, show the pail.] She probably didn't, but let's calculate how many times she would have to go to the well in order to water just one camel. Five times what equals 30? [Six.] It would take six trips to the well to water one camel. How many camels did the servant bring? [Ten.] How many times would she go to the well for ten camels? [Sixty.] No wonder the servant was pleased with such a hard-working maiden.

Part 3 (Use the photo found below of a camel's legs for point #3 of this script.)

Hello, kids. Remember me, Camille Camel? Do you remember that *camel* means “beauty.” I can understand if you have a different opinion about my outward appearance, especially the features I will tell you about today, but you need to remember that my Maker, the Lord of heaven and earth, made me perfectly suited to my environment. That makes even my unlovely parts beautiful in their use. I will tell you about five features.

1. My mouth. We camels have strong, leathery mouths and tongues that allow us to chew and digest thorny plants like cacti as well as salty bushes that other mammals won't eat. That's all we have to eat sometimes; so it's a good thing that our mouths and tongues are specially designed.

2. My skin and fur. Did you know desert temperatures average 100 degrees during the day and only 25 degrees at night? That's a drastic change that would kill most other animals, but my body can handle it; my temperature can vary 10 degrees each day and not hurt me. My fur protects my skin from the hot desert sun and then keeps me warm during those cold desert nights. My hairless underbelly helps me cool down when I lie on the sand.

3. My feet. [Show picture found below.] All camels have large, flat feet with two wide toes. The bottoms of our feet are covered with thick, protective pads that are tough and like leather, keeping our feet from getting burned by hot desert sand. Our flat feet keep us from sinking into the sand, and that saves valuable energy.

4. My knees. I hate to admit it, but I am a pretty heavy animal. When it is finally time to get off my feet and rest, my heavy-duty reinforced knees work perfectly just as they do when I have to be an all-terrain animal on loose sand and steep hills. “Normal” knees would not hold up under such exertion.

5. One more thing—my nickname, “Ship of the Desert.” I am basically the only means of transportation across deserts. Like ships on water, I carry heavy loads of passengers and cargo. Also, I kind of look like a ship bobbing on the water because I move both legs on one side of my body, then the legs on the other side—back and forth. [Move from side to side.]

So, do you see how very beautiful I am—how very wonderfully designed? There's no way I could have gradually adapted my mouth, my skin and fur, my feet, and my knees to my environment over long periods of time. God, my Creator, instantly made me perfectly suited for being a “ship of the desert.”

(Information for these skits came from <https://www.reference.com/pets-animals/camels-called-ships-desert-5bd74594895ec7c8>, http://science.answers.com/Q/Why_is_the_camel_called_the_ship_of_the_desert, National Geographic for Kids, and Wikipedia.)

Directions to Make a Printable Camel Puppet

Print the front and back heads, necks, and mouths of the camel (found below) on card stock, or (recommended) print on paper and glue to stiff card stock. Cut out all the pieces. Glue the front head and neck together to form one neck and head, cutting off the margin. Glue this head and neck to the stiff card stock. Cut the stiff card stock around the camel. Place and glue the back head and neck to the card stock. Include a portion of a paint stick inside the lower end of the neck if you wish to hold the puppet by the paint stick. *An alternative way to hold the puppet is described below.

Glue the mouth pieces to both sides of the stiff card stock. Attach the jaws to the red places to the front head with a sewing snap or brass brad. Attach a stick with two hooked paper clips to the lower mouth with a large paper clip attached to a paint stick so that it can be used to move the mouth up and down. (See photos below.)

*The alternative way to hold the puppet is to tape it to a Masonite® board or, as seen in the photo, to a large (20-inch) metal platter. The puppeteer can hide behind the board or platter and maneuver the puppet mouth from behind. Tape the script to the back of the board or platter for hands-free reading.



Puppet and script taped to a platter; if held upright in one's lap, students in front will be unable to see the puppeteer. (Note: the front view of the puppet looks better than this back side.)



Illustration 1: front head



Illustration 2: back head



Illustration 3: front neck



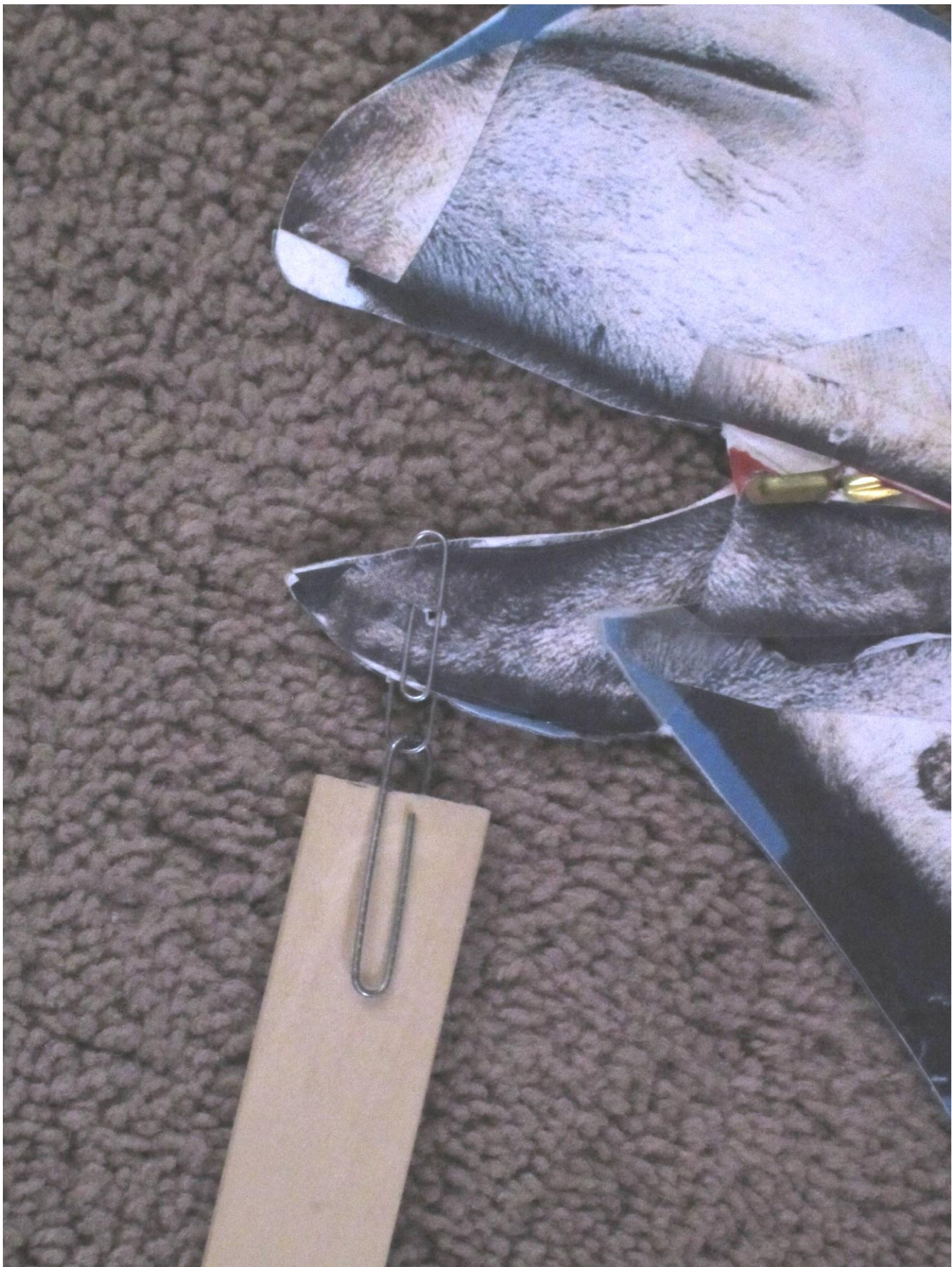
Illustration 4: Back neck



Illustration 5: front mouth



Illustration 6: back mouth



Close up of the paint-stick attachment to the mouth and the brad holding the mouth to the puppet head



https://www.researchgate.net/figure/42-A-camel-rolling-on-the-ground-against-to-itching-above-and-legs-of-camel-below_fig14_288004178
Use this photo for Part 3.