BALLOON ZOO

ZOOTOPIA

Find a video tutorial at **www.guinnessworldrecords.com/animals**

Guido Verhoef (left) was the lead artist behind the record-breaking **largest balloon zoo** on the previous page. While an entire zoo might be a bit ambitious for a beginner to attempt, here he shows you how to start with a balloon parrot. Guido recommends using your finger-widths (i.e., across the knuckles) as a measuring tool to make the model. That way, you'll always have your own ruler *to hand*!

1

Inflate two different-coloured 260-size modelling balloons (we went with red and blue), leaving about three finger-widths – roughly 5.5 cm (2 in) – uninflated. Knot them together with the two "nozzles" at the end.

HEAD

2

Twist a blue bubble of about four finger-widths long, and a slightly smaller red bubble. Now, twist the two balloons together to create the bird's head.

BODY

3

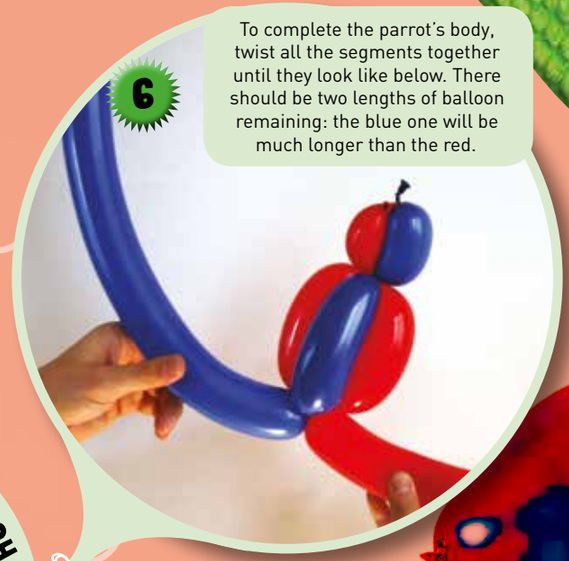
Next, create a bubble eight finger-widths long in each balloon, and twist them together to begin the body section.

4

Twist an eight-finger-width bubble in the red balloon. Bring the bubble up and wrap it around the "neck" to secure it in place. Then create a second bubble of the same length in the red balloon.

5

Bring the red bubble you just made down. With your other hand, hold the base of the main body section (as shown above).



6

To complete the parrot's body, twist all the segments together until they look like below. There should be two lengths of balloon remaining: the blue one will be much longer than the red.

PERCH

7

For the parrot's perch, hold the end of the blue balloon and loop it over the bird's head to form a ring. Then, tie off the uninflated end at the bottom of the body.

TAIL

8

Tie a knot in any uninflated part of the red balloon and use scissors to snip off the excess; the tail can be as long as you like. You could even add in an extra balloon or two for a more showy tail!

EYES

9 **A**

B

C

Inflate a white 260 balloon to about six finger-widths long, and make a knot at both ends. Twist this bubble midway to form two "eyeballs" (**A**). Fold back one of the bubbles and knot the ends together (**B**); cut off the remaining uninflated part. Secure the eyes on to the head with the nozzles, then use a black marker pen/felt tip to draw on the pupils (**C**).

10

You could call me Polly... but Pop-py is probably more apt!