

Knit your own Coastal Guardian

Before we pass on the instructions for making your own coastal guardian, we do need to say that our toy making ability has come from using the patterns of many, many talented knitters including Alan Dart, Jean Greenhowe and Sachiyo Ishii to name a few. It is likely that these figures will use a variety of methods from these and other designers, and any duplication or similarity to their work is entirely unintentional.

What we used:

- 3 mm needles
- a stitch holder
- dk yarn in a variety of colours (we used pink for arms, legs, face, Blue for shorts, red for a jumper and green for wellies and oddments of various colours for hair, eyes and glasses. It really is up to you!)
- Toy stuffing

Start with a leg

Cast on 10 stitches in leg colour (you could use skin colour or a block colour to represent trousers)
Starting with a purl row, stocking stich for 12 rows.

(If you'd like your Coastal Guardian in shorts, knit for 9 rows in pink and change to blue for the last 3 rows).

Cut yarn and place this leg on a stitch holder.

Repeat this leg.

Purl across both legs (20 stitches).
Starting with a k row, stocking stitch 4 rows in same colour.

Change yarn to the colour of your choice for the top half.

Starting with a knit row, st st 10 rows.
Change to colour for face.

K2tog (k1, k2tog) to end (13 stitches).
Purl 1 row.
K2, (kfb) 9 times, k2 (22 stitches).
Starting with a purl row, st st 4 rows.
P5 (p2tog, p1) 4 times, p5 (18 stitches).

K = knit
P = purl
K2tog/p2tog = knit or purl 2 stitches together
Kfb = knit into the front and back of the same stitch
Stocking stitch (st st) = knit one row, purl one row



Start with a knit row, 4 rows st st.
K2, (k2tog, k2) to end (14 stitches).
Break yarn, leaving a long end, thread through remaining stitches, pull tight and fasten.

Arms – make 2

You can adjust the sleeve length of your jumper as you see fit, just make sure you change colour on a knit row. For our version below, your Coastal Guardian will be wearing a t-shirt.

Cast on 10 stitches in the colour for your jumper/t-shirt.
Starting with a purl row, 7 rows of st st.

Change to colour for hand.
Stocking stitch for 8 rows.
Break yarn, thread through remaining stitches, pull tight and fasten.

Wellies – Make 2

You could make these into shoes by only doing 2 rows of stocking stitch, however, you'll usually find our team in wellies, so we've given the instructions for the longer version.

Cast on 7 stitches.
Kfb 7 times (14 stitches).
Purl 3 rows.
St st 4 rows.
P4 (p2tog) 3 times, purl to end.
Cast off.

Making up

Sew legs and head leaving a gap at the back middle (your seam will be on the back) and stuff lightly and sew up.
Sew and stuff arms, attach to shoulders.
Wrap legs in wellies, seam up the back and onto the bottom. Sew through the bottom of the sole to the top and back again 3 or 4 times to flatten out the welly.

Time to personalise:

There's lots of different ways to make your hair – we've embroidered Fiona's hair, we used French knots for Zoë in a variety of colours, and we plaited long strands of brown for Belinda and Laura.
Embroider on eyes.

You can add glasses, beards – whatever you like to make your own personal Coastal Guardian.

If you would like to contribute a knitted Coastal Guardian to our ever growing travelling event display, please do send it to: **Guardians of the Deep, Kent Wildlife Trust, Tyland Barn, Sandling, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 3BD.**

