



Museum of
Natural
History

H O P E
FOR THE FUTURE



Paper Moth Decoration

Show your appreciation for the mighty moth by capturing its beauty in this 3D paper decoration.



Moths Matter!

Moths are a vital part of our biodiversity. Every day and night, moths carry out essential jobs to help maintain a healthy ecosystem.

Moths are often seen as dull and drab insects and not as beautiful as their butterfly relations. But some moths, such as Hawk moths and Tiger moths, have vibrant colours and dazzling patterns that can rival those of any butterfly.



Elephant hawk-moth

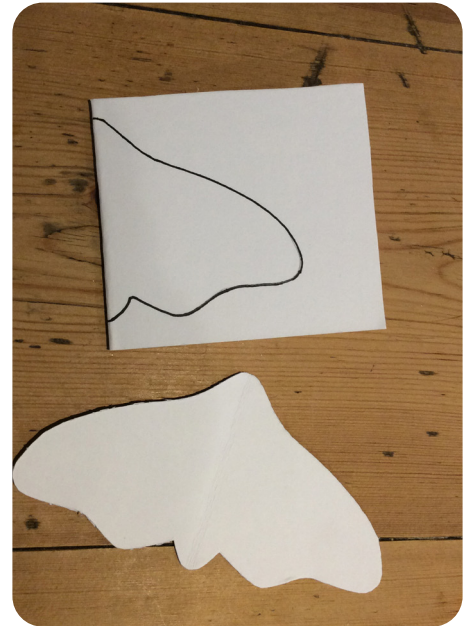
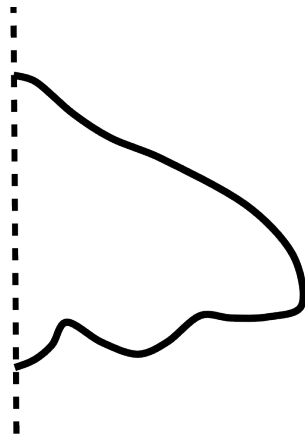
You will need...

- Piece of thick card for moth template – *we're using part of a cereal box*
- Pieces of patterned paper for moths – *we're using wrapping paper and recycled packaging*
- String or ribbon (20cm) – *we're using fine white ribbon*
- Decorative materials – *we're using scraps of patterned paper and sequins*
- Pen or pencil
- Scissors
- Glue
- Sticky tape

Instructions

1. Make a moth template by folding the piece of thick card in half and drawing half a moth shape from the folded edge. Cut out the shape and unfold so you have a complete moth.

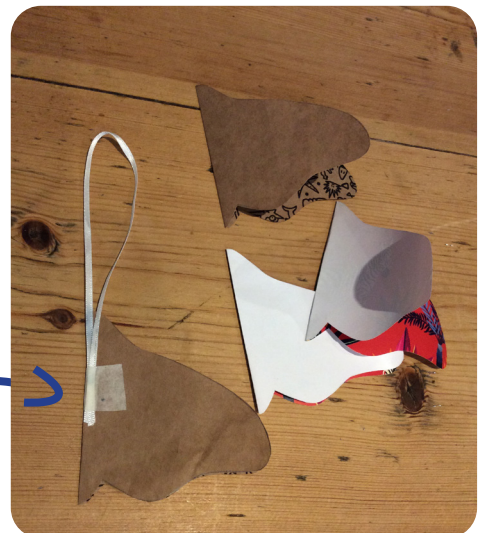
Example of half a moth shape. Dashed line represents folded edge of card.



2. Use the template to make 4 moths from the pieces of patterned paper. Choose 2 moths to be one type of pattern and the other 2 moths to be a different type of pattern (we're using a pink pattern and a brown pattern).



3. Fold the 4 moths in half, making sure that the patterned surface is on the inside. Take a folded moth and sticky-tape one end of the ribbon close to its folded edge. This is your 'base moth'.

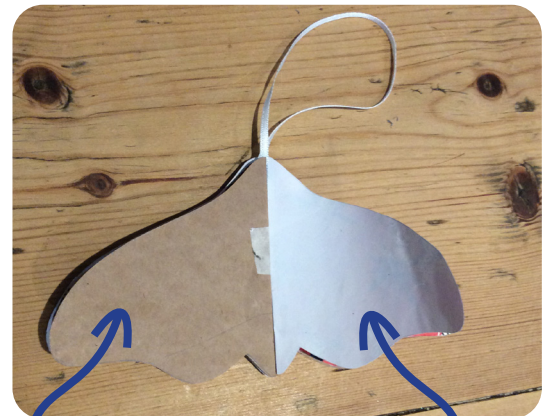


4. Glue a folded moth with a different pattern onto the base moth. On top of that moth, glue a folded moth which has the same pattern as your base moth. Finally, on top of that moth, glue the final folded moth. The patterns should alternate - the order of our moth goes brown, pink, brown, pink. Open-up the wings to see your moth taking shape.



5. To complete your moth's 3D effect, glue the 2 open wings together.

Your moth should now have 4 sides (we have 2 brown and 2 pink).



Glue these two wings together

6. Decorate each side of the moth with shapes cut from leftover pieces of patterned paper and shiny materials such as sequins.



7. Tie a loop at the top of the ribbon to finish off the decoration. Now dangle your moth in a place where everybody can admire its beauty!

