

National Flight of the Monarch Day

MONARCH WINGS COSTUME



Overview

Black, white and orange – these are the iconic colours of the monarch butterfly. Flitting through the summer skies, monarch butterflies are instantly recognizable. As the monarchs ready themselves for their journey to Mexico, it can be a wonderful sight to see children join in with their own butterfly wings and prepare for flight!

Instructions

- 1 Make a pattern: Trace the butterfly wing shape, abdomen and the cells within the wing on cardboard. The wing should measure 20"/51cm long and 13"/33cm at the widest point. You only need one wing shape. Be sure to number each of the cells within the wing.



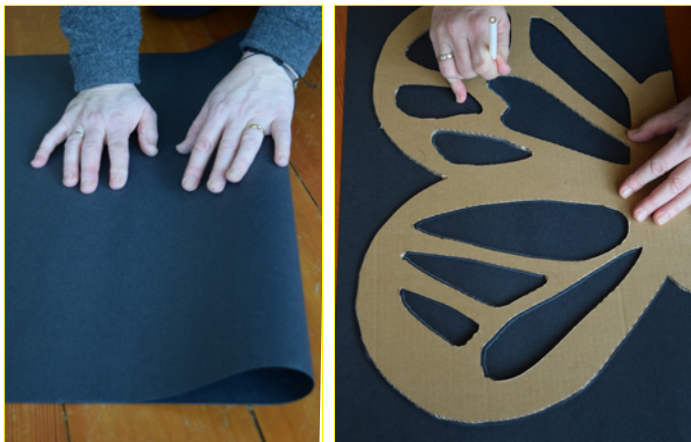
- 2 Using the utility knife, carefully cut out the wing shape and cells. This is your wing pattern.



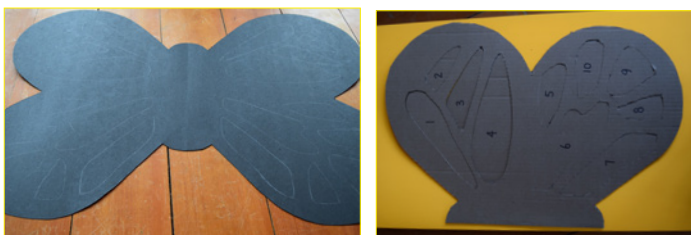
You will need...

- Large sheet of cardboard, at least 30"x24"/76x61cm - a deconstructed cardboard box works well (pattern)
- One sheet black poster board (28"x 22"/71x56cm)
- One sheet orange poster board (28"x 22"/71x56cm)
- White pencil crayon (tracing)
- Pencil (tracing)
- Utility knife
- Scissors
- High quality glue sticks
- 1 1/4"/3cm and 3/4"/2cm foam stipplers, or 1 1/4"/3cm and 3/4"/2cm circles cut from sponges
- White acrylic paint
- Foil pie plates, or other recycled container for paint
- Single hole punch
- Black 1"/2.5cm ribbon (straps)

- 3 Make the wings: Fold the black poster board in half. Take the pattern and place the edge of the abdomen along the folded edge of the black poster board. Using white pencil, trace the pattern and then cut out the wing shape.



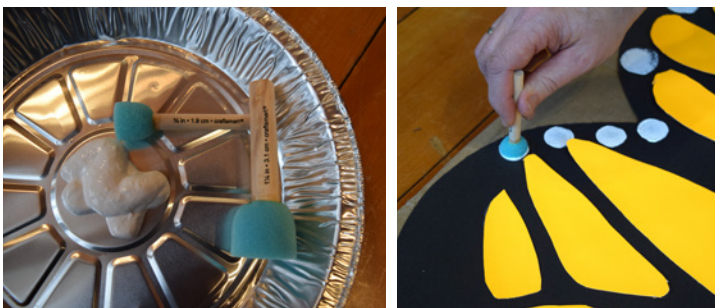
- 4 Unfold, then use the wing pattern to trace the cells onto the front and back of the wings to use as a guide for laying out the orange shapes. On both sides of the wings, number the cells as they correspond to the pattern.



- 5 Fold the orange poster board in half. Take the pattern and trace the cells, creating four sets of orange shapes for the front and back of the wings. Using a pencil, lightly number the cells as they correspond to the pattern. Cut shapes out with scissors and glue them to the wings, laying them out according to the numbers and outlines traced in step #3.



- 6 Pour some white paint into the foil pie plate. Dab large white circles on the tips of the wings, and smaller circles all along the edge. Allow time for the paint to dry (about 1-2 hours). Alternatively, you can use a circle punch and white poster board, then glue the circles on the wing edges.



- 7 Punch four holes on the abdomen of the wings, two on each side. Thread the ribbon through the holes to use as straps.



- 8 Make the Butterfly Antennae Headband to complete the look!



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