

Make a butterfly feeder



Hang this flowery feeder in your garden or from your windowsill to encourage busy butterflies to drop by.

What you need

- Paper cup
- Blu Tack
- Pencil
- String
- Scissors
- Sponge
- Tissue paper
- Sticky tape
- Orange juice

How does it work?

Butterflies do not have mouths like humans. Instead, they have a long, tube-like appendage called a proboscis that extends from the front of their head. This is the perfect tool to reach deep inside a flower to sip nectar or to slurp juices from rotting fruits. The bright colours of the flower and the sweet scent of orange juice will attract butterflies to your feeder. The juice soaks through the sponge, allowing butterflies to drink it with their long mouths. This will keep them well hydrated on hot summer days and give you splendid close-up views.



A red admiral with a long proboscis.



1 Place the cup on its side, with a ball of Blu Tack under the lip of the cup. Push a pencil through it to make a hole. Then repeat this on the opposite side.



2 Thread one end of the string through a hole and tie it off. Do the same on the other side. When you've finished, the cup should have a string handle.



3 Take the pencil and carefully pierce the bottom of the paper cup. Waggle it round a little to make the hole bigger.

SENSATIONAL SCALES

The vibrantly coloured wings of butterflies and moths are actually made up of lots of tiny scales.



4 Use the scissors to snip off a small rectangle of sponge. Place it over the hole in the cup and push it through with the pencil. It should plug the hole.



5 Now's the time to decorate. Cut flower shapes from tissue paper and stick them to the base of the cup with sticky tape. It should look like a giant bloom.



6 Flip your cup so the flower is on the bottom and pour in some orange juice. Take the feeder outside and hang it up where butterflies will find it.