

THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY



Scientific name: *Danaus plexippus*

FROM LARVA TO BUTTERFLY CRAFTING FUN



I LARVA YOU

The larvae, also known as caterpillars, of the monarch butterfly hatch from eggs the monarch butterfly lays on the leaf of a milkweed plant. For about two weeks, the larva's main job is to eat. This hungry larva only eats milkweed.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR LARVA LOVE NOTE

Things you'll need:

- Larva Parts pages 1 and 2 (provided)*
- Scissors
- Glue/tape
- Markers/crayons/color pencils
- Anything you'd like to decorate your larva!

*If you don't have access to a printer, you can draw the basic shapes provided. Small cups, plates or even the cardboard tube of a toilet paper roll can help you create perfect circles. The print out can also be used as a template to trace on your choice of paper.

1. Cut out the head, body and legs of your larva.

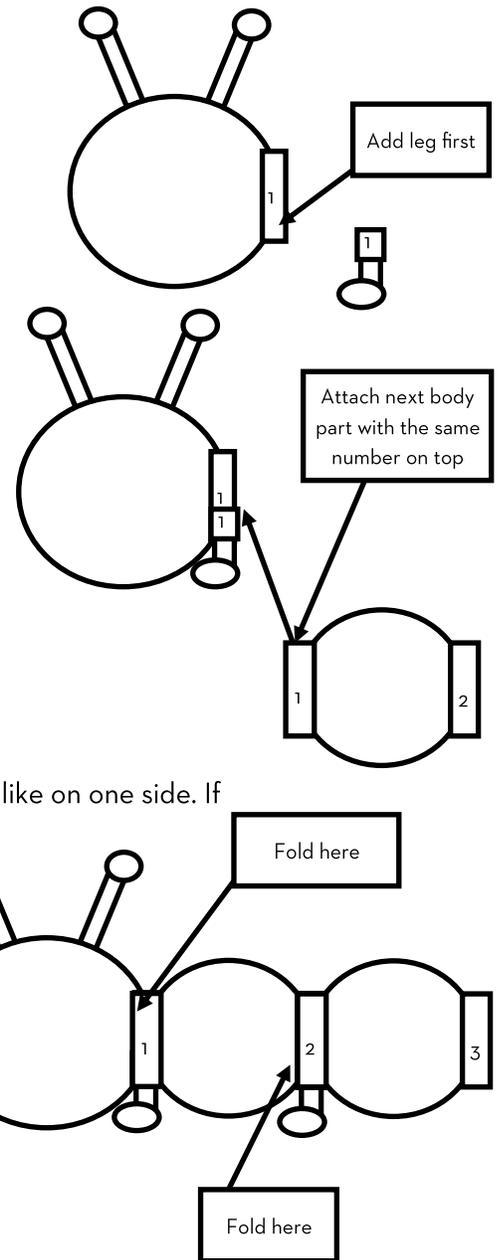
2. Decorate your larva! Give it a face, color or paint it the way you'd like on one side. If you paint it, make sure you give the paint enough time to dry.

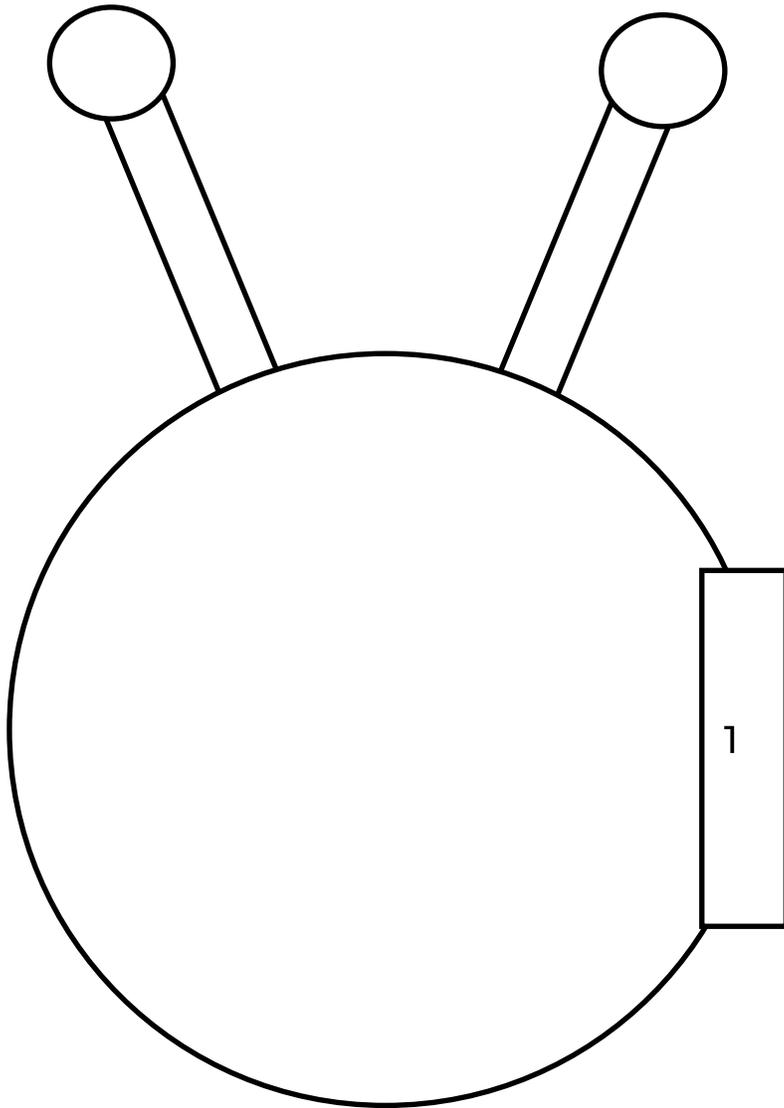
3. On the opposite side of your larva, write messages to the person you'd like to give it to.

- I love you because...
- I love when...
- Thank you for...
- It makes me really happy when you...

4. Following the numbers on the tabs, glue or tape the parts labeled with the same number together as demonstrated above.

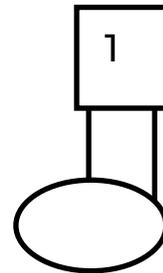
5. To finish your larva love note, fold at the beginning of each tab as shown above. If you glued the parts together, make sure you fold after the glue has dried.





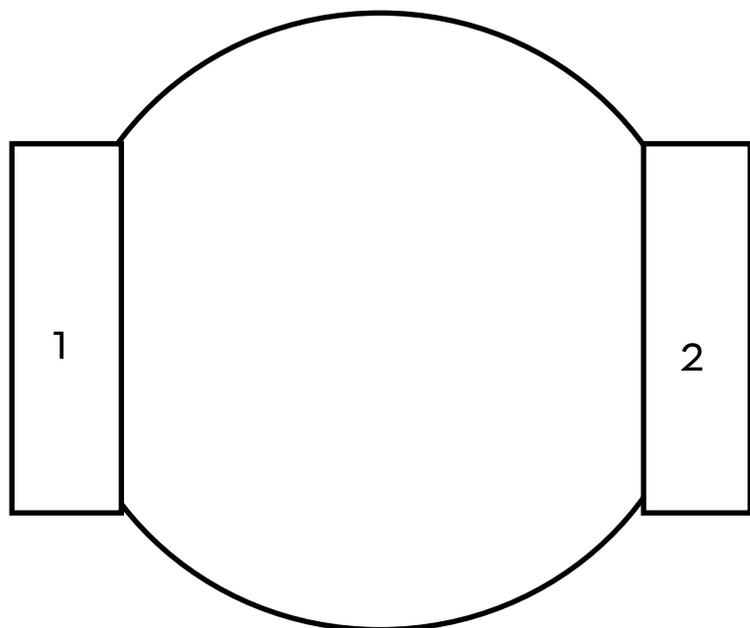
DID YOU KNOW...

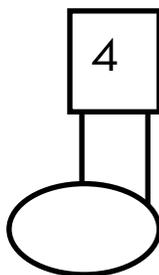
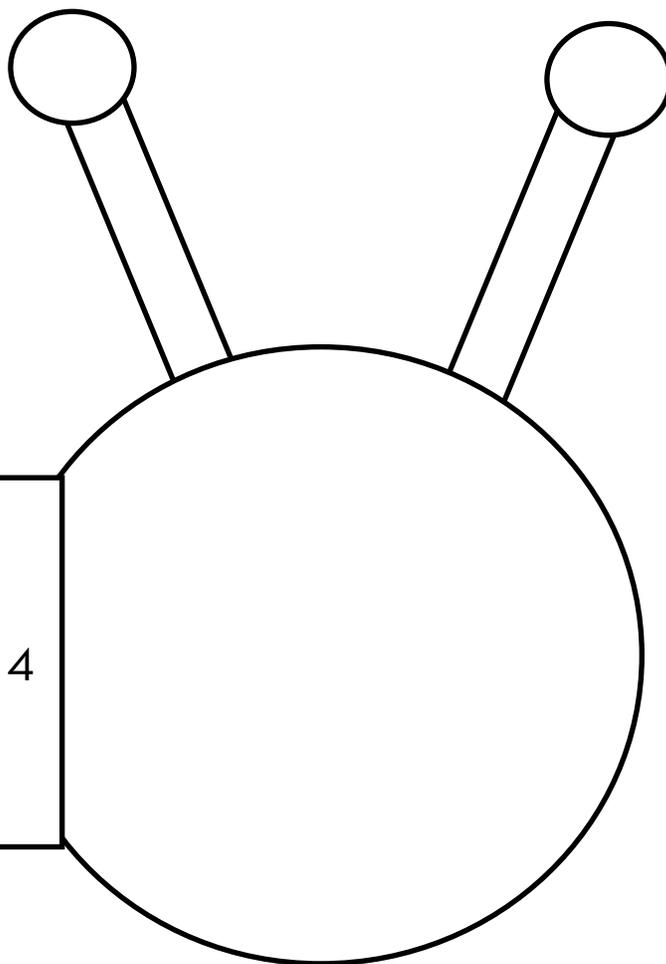
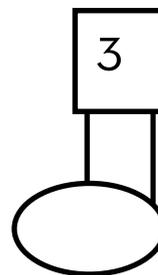
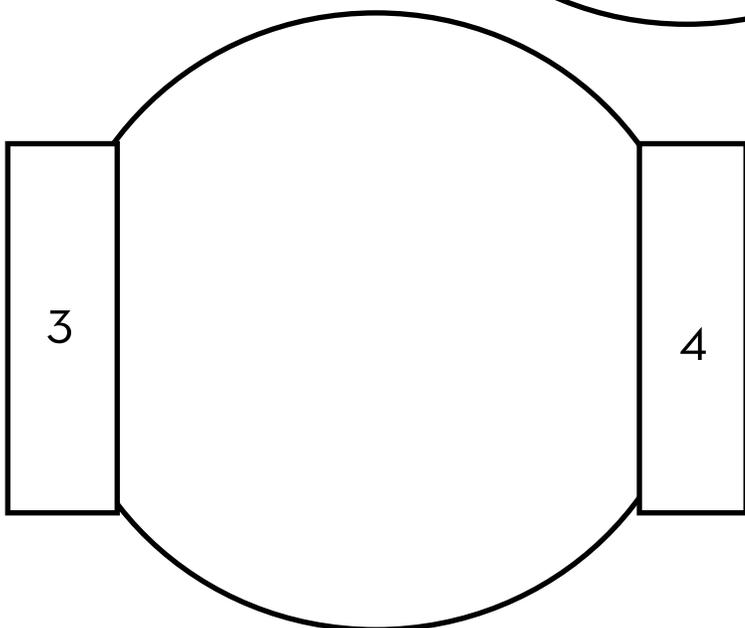
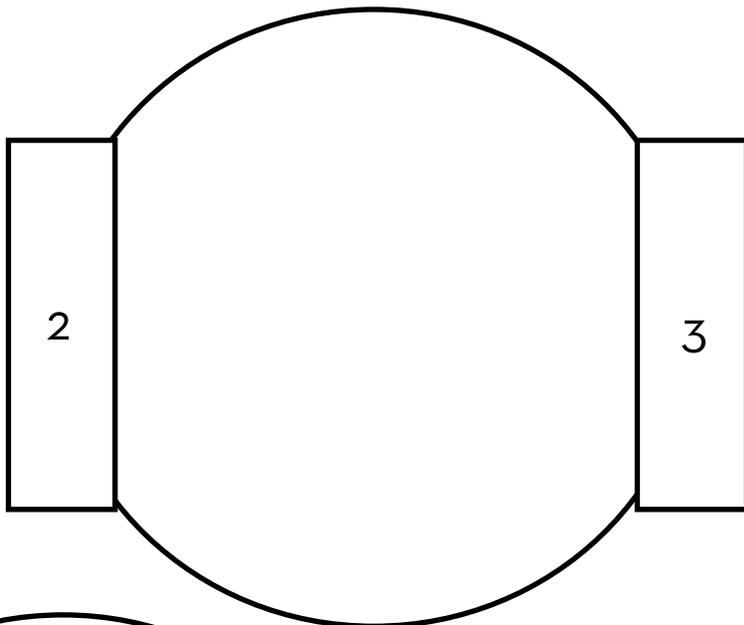
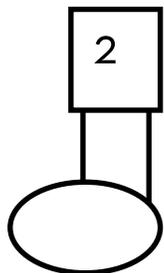
The monarch is poisonous to its predators. The milkweed plant they eat is toxic and the monarch has evolved to store the toxins to defend itself from its natural predators.



DID YOU KNOW...

The monarch larvae can gain about 2700 times their original weight!





DID YOU KNOW...

Larva is also Spanish for larva! The plural form of larva in Spanish is larvas where in English the plural form is larvae.

CHRYSLIS OF KNOWLEDGE

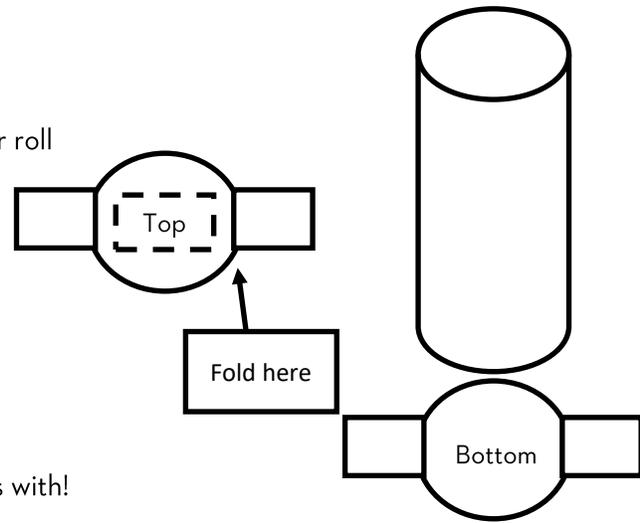
During the pupa stage, the butterfly larva creates a hardened protective layer around themselves to form a chrysalis. The chrysalis helps protect the larva while it enters into its metamorphic stage, changing into a butterfly.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR CHRYSLIS THOUGHT BANK

Things you'll need:

- Cardboard tube of a paper towel/toilet paper roll
- Paper*
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue/tape
- Markers/crayons/color pencils
- Anything you'd like to decorate your chrysalis with!

*Grocery paper bags are a great material to use.



1. Use your cardboard tube to outline its circular end on your paper and create 2 circles.
2. Draw rectangles on opposite sides of each other to create tabs like the examples above.
3. Choose one of the circles with tabs to be the top and cut out a small rectangular opening like the one shown above. This will create a slot.
4. Fold the tabs along the inner seam, then attach each tab with glue or tape on to the inside of your cardboard tube.
5. Decorate your chrysalis by painting, coloring, collaging or whatever you'd like!
6. You can use your remaining paper to cut into your desired shapes. Use these to write a thought for the day, something you're thankful for or something new you learned that day.

Just like larvae morphing into butterflies, we grow into adults while learning and adapting to the world around us. After you've filled your chrysalis thought bank, open it to read all your past thoughts!

BUTTERFLY BANNER

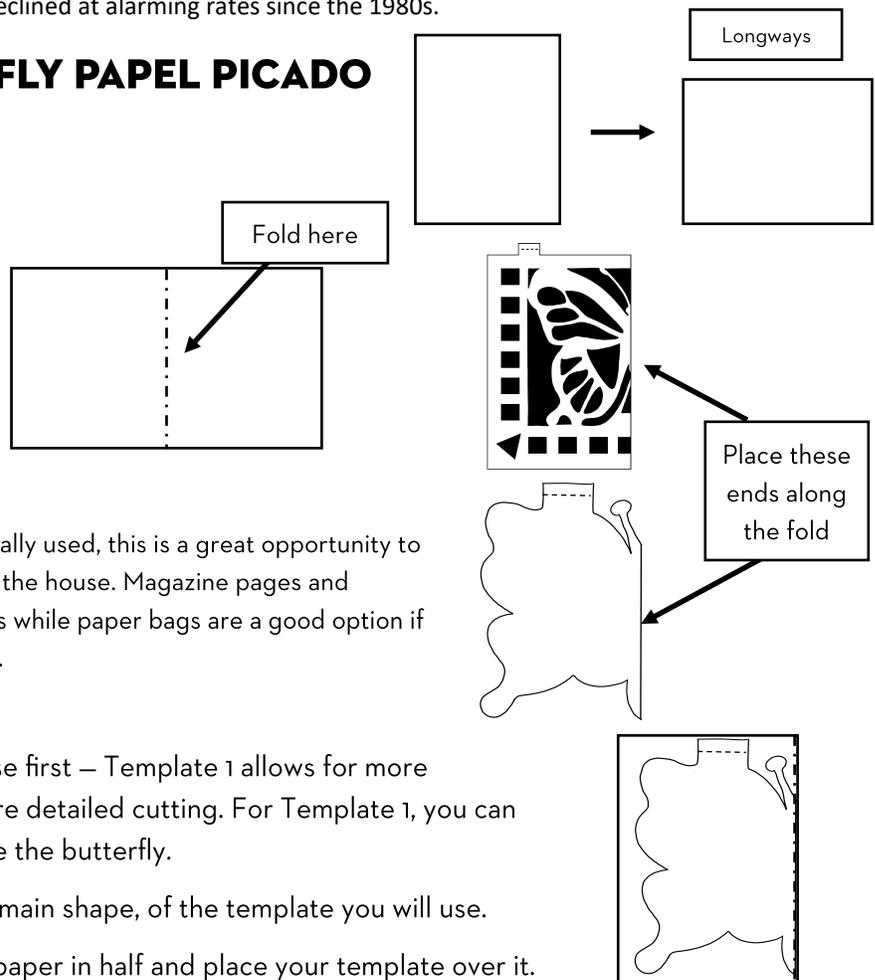
The migration pattern of the monarch butterfly in North America is divided by the Rocky Mountains creating two main groups — the western monarchs who spend the winter on the coast of California and the eastern monarchs that migrate to central Mexico. As part of their migration route, Sonoma County remains to be an important area to grow milkweed and protect areas they may inhabit. Due to the disappearance of milkweed that the monarchs are highly dependent on and their vulnerability to extreme weather change, the population of both the western and eastern monarch butterflies have declined at alarming rates since the 1980s.

HOW TO MAKE BUTTERFLY PAPEL PICADO

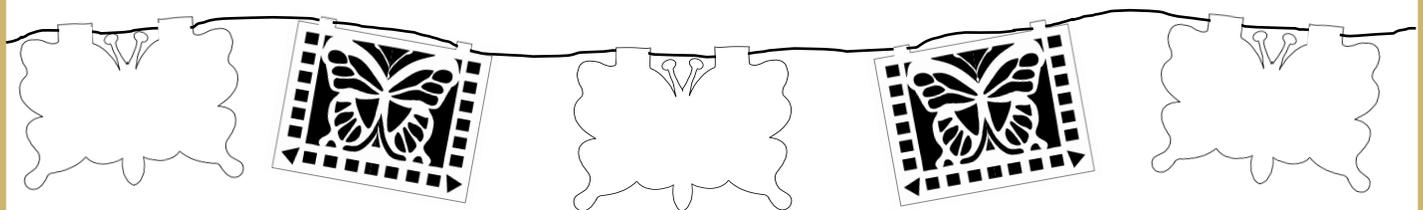
Things you'll need:

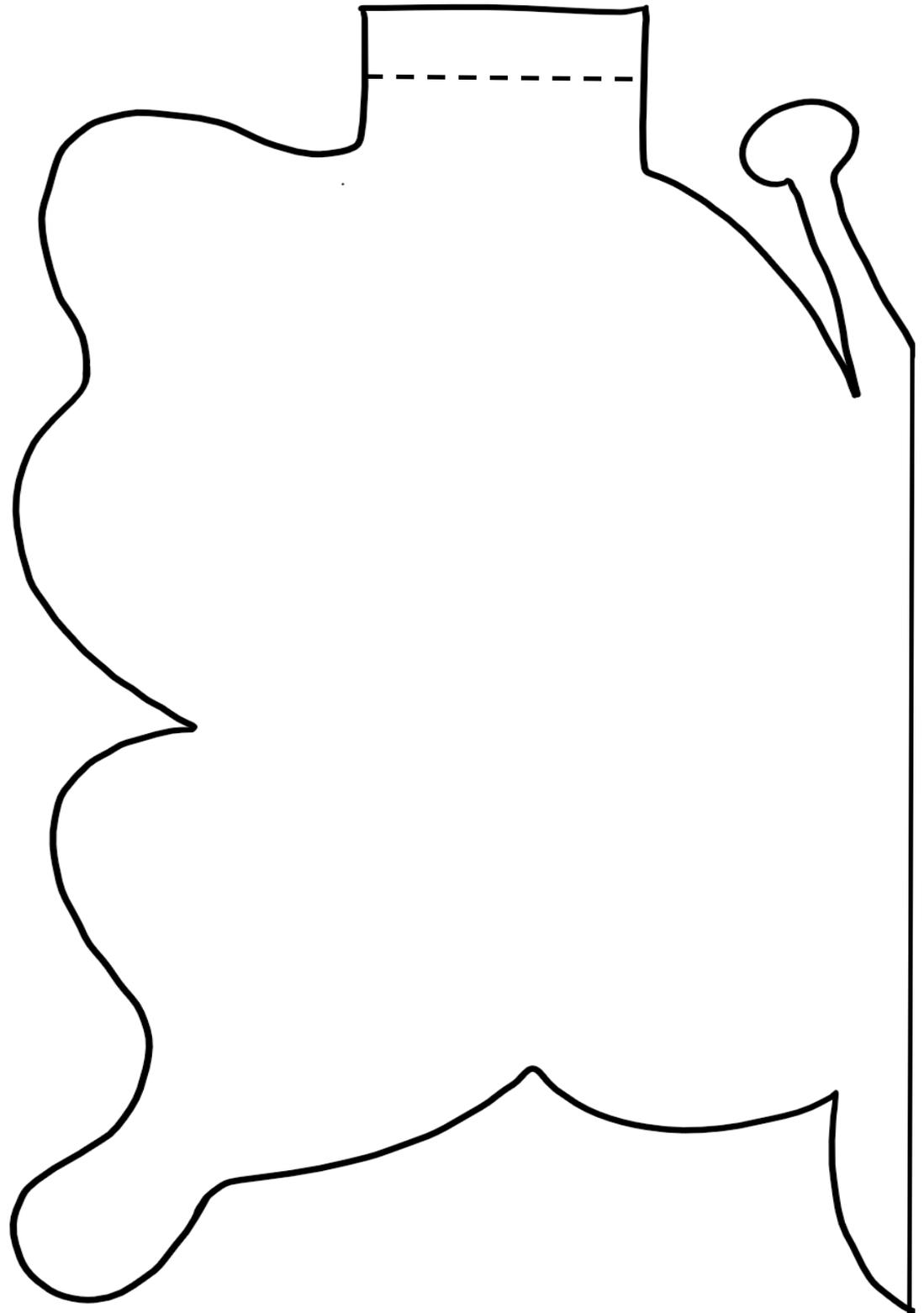
- Butterfly templates (provided)
- Paper*
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue/tape
- String

*Although tissue paper is traditionally used, this is a great opportunity to reuse paper you may have around the house. Magazine pages and newspaper can create fun patterns while paper bags are a good option if you'd like to use paint to decorate.



1. Decide what template you'd like to use first — Template 1 allows for more personalization while Template 2 is more detailed cutting. For Template 1, you can choose to draw your own pattern inside the butterfly.
2. Begin by cutting out the outline, the main shape, of the template you will use.
3. Lay your paper longways. Fold your paper in half and place your template over it.
4. Start by cutting the outside shape of the butterfly and then work in. With Template 2, cut out the black shapes and with Template 1 cut out your pattern you drew inside however you'd like.
5. Open your cut out paper and use the tabs to fold over your string. Use the folding lines provided on the tabs to help guide you. Tape or glue the tabs closed.





DID YOU KNOW...

A female monarch butterfly can lay on average 300 to 500 eggs over the span of 2 to 5 days! Each egg is laid individually on the leaves of a milkweed plant.



DID YOU KNOW...

Papel picado, cut up paper, is a traditional Mexican artform used as decorations during many celebrations in Mexico. During Día de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) these banners are displayed on the ofrendas (altars) that are created for loved ones that have passed away. Día de los Muertos, on November 1st, coincides with the arrival of the monarch butterfly to its wintering habitat in Mexico. For many, the monarch butterfly represents the souls of their loved ones returning to visit.