



Make your own Giant Dragonfly

What you will need

1. An adult to help you (remember – adults do like to be useful)
2. Wallpaper paste (the type without fungicide) or flour and water paste or PVA
3. Brush for the glue
4. Lots of bits of newspaper about 6cm x 3cm and lots of bits of white paper about 6cm x 3cm
5. Long, narrow balloon
6. String
7. Pipe cleaners
8. Wire – the green coated greenhouse wire is ideal
9. Wire cutters
10. Ping-Pong ball, cut in half to give 2 hemispheres
11. Tracing paper, tissue paper or muslin
12. Pin
13. Picture of a dragonfly
14. Paints and brushes
15. Very soft broad pencil (2B or softer)
16. Cotton thread

What to do - Please refer to the drawings below

1. Blow up the balloon so it is about 45cm long but less than 5 cm wide. See fig. 1.
2. Tie (with string) or twist the balloon about 5 cm from the tip, so you make the head. (Have the knot on the balloon at the rear end). See fig.2
3. Tie (with string) or twist the balloon again, about 10cm behind the first tie. Now you have the thorax and the abdomen. See fig. 2.
4. Mix up the paste in a bowl. Use the brush to paste strips of newspaper. Put the strips onto the balloon until the whole thing is covered. Set it aside to dry.
5. Next day use the plain paper and do the same thing. Again, set it aside to dry. (By alternating plain paper and newspaper, you can see where you have done it.)
6. Repeat steps 4 and 5 until you have about 6 layers built up and the papier mache is firm.
7. Allow it to dry thoroughly – an airing cupboard is good for this.
8. Using the pin, carefully pop the balloon. Be certain you have protected your eyes when you do this.
9. Paint the body with paint – use a picture of a dragonfly to help you. Allow it to dry.
10. Bend the wire into a wing shape – about 25cm long and 8cm wide at the widest point. Do this 4 times (you want 4 wings). See fig. 3.
11. Carefully cover the wings with tissue paper or muslin. Glue these to themselves by folding it over the wire and gluing it underneath to the layer above. The glue will not hold it directly onto the wire. Be certain to cover 2 wings on the underneath for the left, and 2 wings on the underneath for the right. This way you won't get a seam on the upper-side. See figs. 4a & 4b.
12. Using the picture of a Dragonfly as a guide, draw lines on the wings to represent the veins. See fig. 5.
13. Fasten the wings onto the thorax by using more wire to hold them firm.
14. Bend pipe cleaners to form the legs, 3 pairs, and fix these to the thorax with wire. See fig. 6.
15. Use the half Ping-Pong balls to make the eyes by fixing them to the head with more glue. See fig. 6.
16. When it is completely dry, use cotton thread to make a cradle and hang the dragonfly from the ceiling.

Make your own Giant Dragonfly

Fig.1

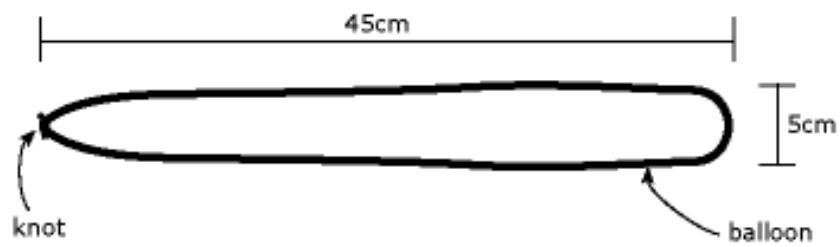


Fig.2

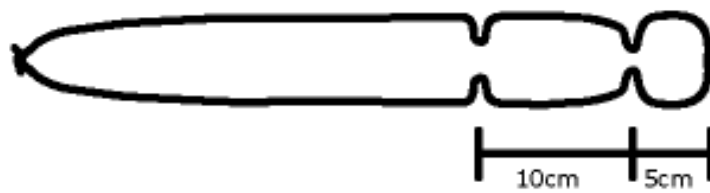


Fig.3



Fig.5

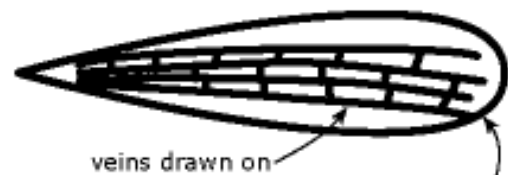


Fig.4a

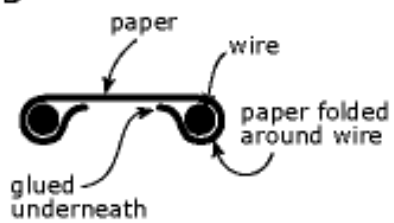


Fig.4b



Fig.6

