

# Make a Static Electricity Butterfly

## What is static electricity?

Static electricity is the build-up of electrical charge on the surface of an object. It is quite a confusing topic to understand, but [this video](#) will help you become familiar with what is going on.

Static electricity exists all around us. It can be what causes you to get a small electric shock after walking on carpet, for example. Another, much scarier example of static electricity is lightning. In that case, the electricity is built up when giant clouds rub together.



*Static between the frozen raindrops in clouds is what makes lightning happen*

For this craft, we are going to use static electricity to move the wings of a homemade butterfly. It really looks like magic!

You will need:

- Cardboard
- Tissue paper
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Balloon
- Pens and pencils for decorating

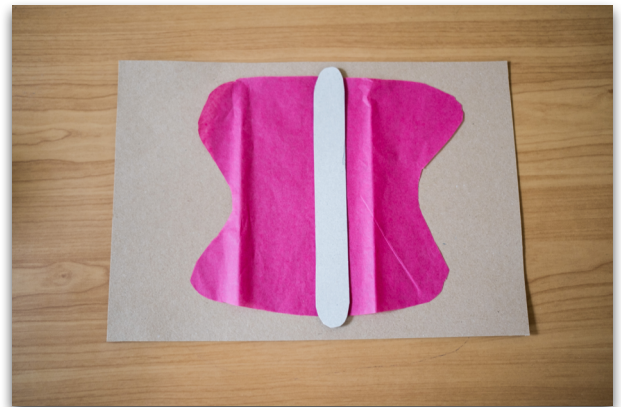


## Instructions

1. Cut a square of cardboard, approximately 30cm x 30cm. This will be your base.
2. Draw the outline of butterfly wings on the tissue paper, making sure the wings are smaller than the cardboard base you have just made. Do not glue the wings to the base.
3. Draw and cut out a cardboard body for your butterfly. Make sure it is longer than the height of your wings.



4. Decorate the body with eyes and antennae, and why not colour it in!
5. Glue the body over the wings, with a small amount of glue at the tip and tail of the body, and a small amount in the middle. You really don't need much glue, and make sure to avoid sticking the tissue paper wings to the base.



6. Blow up the balloon and charge it up! You can do this by rubbing it on your head or on carpet.

7. Hold the balloon above your butterfly, close but not touching and watch as the wings raise and lower as the balloon is moved closer and further away.

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