

How to make a ladybird



This craft was inspired by the bug hotel in the kitchen garden of Shaw House.

You will need: cardboard roll, paint, paintbrush, thin card (from a cereal box or similar), black felt tip pen, coloured felt tip pens, paper cake case or a small sheet of paper, compass (optional), glue stick, sticky tape, stapler, other decorating materials.

Instructions:

1. Draw and cut out three strips each 12cm x 1cm from the thin card, as well as two strips each about 4cm x 0.3cm.
2. Paint all the strips and the cardboard roll. Leave to dry.
3. Draw and cut out two circles (eyes) and draw a pupil on each with a felt tip pen.
4. Gently fold in the top of the cardboard roll and staple in place (in the middle). Repeat at the other end of the cardboard roll.
5. Use the glue stick to attach the eyes and the two short strips, which are the antennae. Leave to dry.
6. Cut each of the three strips in half to make six legs. With glue or sticky tape attach to the bottom of the cardboard roll. Bend the legs into shape.
7. With the paper cake case, cut a shallow V-shape. If you don't have a paper case, use a compass to draw a 12cm diameter circle on a small sheet of paper and then cut out (including V-shape). These are your ladybird's wings.
8. Colour (with felt tip pens) and decorate the wings. We used a felt tip pen to draw spots on ours so that it resembles a red and black-spotted ladybird.
9. Attach the wings to the body (cardboard roll) of the ladybird using glue. Leave to dry. Your bug is complete, and ready to take up residence in a bug hotel!



Fun facts: Ladybirds come in different colours and patterns, but one of the most common in the UK is the seven-spotted red and black ladybird. They are a type of beetle and, like all insects, have six legs and four wings. When not flying the rear wings are covered by a pair of wings called elytra.

