

Make a damselfly hanging decoration

You will need: 2 pipe cleaners, 1 wooden teaspoon, paint or felt tip pens, paintbrush (optional), 2 wiggle eyes, scissors, glue dots or PVA glue, buttons/sequins or other decorative materials, fine nib permanent marker (black), piece of string/ribbon or elastic cord (optional).

Instructions:

1. Paint the wooden spoon (or colour with felt tip pens). Leave to dry.
2. Cut a large pipe cleaner in half. Shape one half into two wings of roughly the same size (as each set of a damselfly's wings tend to be a uniform shape and size), twisting together to leave a straight piece of pipe cleaner about 1cm long. This is needed to secure it to the body of the damselfly. Repeat with the other half of the pipe cleaner so you have two sets of wings.
3. Cut the second pipe cleaner in half. Use half to secure the wings to the body (handle of the spoon) by threading the pipe cleaner through the base of each wing and around the handle of the spoon until there is no pipe cleaner left. You may need to reshape the wings after this process.
4. With the remaining piece of the pipe cleaner, cut in half. Fold in the middle and shape to form small antennae. Glue to the back of the spoon (bowl/head).
5. Glue on two wiggle eyes and any other decoration. We used four small buttons to decorate the damselfly and give it a 'bejewelled' appearance.
6. With the fine nib permanent marker, draw a smile onto the damselfly's head.
7. Your damselfly is ready to take flight! You can add a length of string, ribbon or elastic cord, attached to the back of the head, if you wish to hang up your damselfly so it can drift through the air (wind).



Fun facts: Damselflies are similar to dragonflies. Damselflies tend to be smaller, but they both have large eyes, small antennae and a similar shape.

We modelled our damselfly on a 'common blue' which, as the name suggests, is blue or blue/green in colour.

Damselflies appear to drift through the air, and snatch their prey from the vegetation. They rest, as most damselflies do, with their wings folded lengthways along their body.