



Making Inexpensive Pollinator Antennae and Wings

Antennae

Supplies:

- Headbands—Get the simplest variety you can find, ideally without teeth. Narrower is better than wide versions. If you get black, you don't have to worry about boys shunning colors. They are available in bulk from Amazon or in inexpensive 6-packs from dollar stores.
- Pipe Cleaners—Michaels and other craft chains carry them in packs of 100 or 300. We use black for all but fly antennae. For fly antennae, we use brownish-orange color.

How to make basic antennae: You can make them as needed or show kids how to make their own. Hold up headband, and place end of pipe cleaner on top just to the side of the center, and wrap 2-3 times tightly around headband. Antennae will flop over and look sad if not wrapped tightly. Repeat for 2nd antennae.

- Bees—bend antennae halfway down.
- Butterflies—make small nub in end by folding ends a couple of times.
- Beetles—leave pipe antennae alone except you may gently curve them outwards.
- Flies—cut brownish orange pipe cleaner (black is OK, too) in half, then fold half pipe cleaner in half to find its middle. Match pipe cleaner middle to headband middle, and wrap pipe cleaner's center on headband, leaving the ends standing up. Then bend them down to make nubby fly antennae.

Wings

Supplies:

- Light colored (white, off-white, soft gray...) tulle fabric (like ballerinas wear) of medium stiffness, available in fabric stores
- Pipe cleaners (available in bulk from craft stores)
- Largish safety pins (available in bulk from craft stores)

How to make basic wings (Have a wing party with volunteers before event!):

- Cut tulle in approximately 12" X 24" pieces. (If you want to make them a little nicer, fold them in half, and round one raw corner.)
- Grab the tulle piece in the middle and wrap it with one pipe cleaner. (We like white pipe cleaners, but black will work fine.) You can practice and get really creative with the wrapping, but tuck the ends inside so they don't hurt the child's back.
- Insert open safety pin, head first, through middle of pipes cleaner wrapping and close safety pin until ready for pinning to child's shirt back.
- Pin onto child's shirt back between neck and bottom of shoulder blades.