Butterfly Life Cycle Paper Toy Craft – Flextangle Template

by Kimber

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I'm Kimberly mother and I'm here to spread crafty joy! About the Page

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Let's learn about the life cycle of a butterfly with this engaging butterfly life cycle paper toy flextangle.

This paper craft template covers 4 stages of the cycle – the butterfly, eggs, caterpillar and cocoon. So print the template, follow the easy to copy folding instructions and have fun!

This post contains affiliate links!

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If you have a chance to learn about the life cycle of a butterfly by observing it in person that is one of the best ways to learn about it. But if that isn't an option, or if you just want a butterfly life cycle craft that kids can take home – this butterfly life cycle paper toy flexatangle is the thing to make.

This one is the first in our life cycle craft series and I can't wait to make more of them (both paper toys and regular crafts kids can make).

Flextangles are one of the most fun paper toys out there as you can turn them around indefinitely – which is kind of perfect for teaching life cycles. Folding them? It might look hard but they really are easy peasy!

Ready to make your own? Grab our paper toy template and get folding!

Butterfly Life Cycle Paper Toy Flextangle

What you need:

- one of our printable templates (we have one in full color and one for kids to color) – you can find them both at the end of the tutorial
- printer
- paper (we used regular print paper)
- scissors
- a tool for scoring – nothing fancy a simple craft stick will do (or a pen, ruler, cane ...)
- glue

Optional: Coloring medium if you decided to go with our black and white template

Ready? Let's make one!

Watch the Video Tutorial

Or Follow These Step by Step Folding Instructions

Start by printing our template. If you printed the black and white one, this is the time to color it.

Cut out the template along the black outline. You will see the two flaps at one side don't have a dead line – it's best to cut in the direction of the line to the edge of the paper.

Now comes quite a lot of folding and scoring. It is super important you score the folds as this will make the craft easy (if you don't score them, they will be hard to firmly put in place). We just used a craft stick and it worked out nicely.

First fold along all the verticals (these are marked on the template, but are marked outside the actual paper toy).

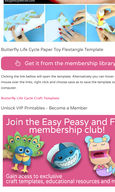
Now fold along all the dashed diagonal lines.

Now comes the part that might seem a bit tricky but it really is not! "Roll" the template into a tube – just to get the feel of it.

You'll see a few white triangle that have the word glue on it. Apply glue there (start by just applying the glue to one).

Now roll into a tube again, pressing the triangle with a pattern that is on the opposite side against the triangle with the glue and gently glue it. I know, it sounds confusing but when you actually make it you'll see it. Flexes perform tempo (you can always watch the video to see how we did it).

Allow the glue to set.



Continue with the next pair of triangles. And the last one.

You'll see two flaps one one side and a thin opening on the other side of the tube. Apply glue on the flaps (there's the word glue again) and push the flaps into the opening.

Press gently for the glue to set.

Almost Ready To Roll

Now leave it alone for just a short while for the glue to do its glue magic and then you are ready to roll!

Your Butterfly Life Cycle Paper Toy flexatangle will be able to roll and roll and roll. The first few twists might be a bit slow, but once all falls into place things will get smoother.

Butterfly Life Cycle Paper Toy Flextangle Template

Get it from the membership library

Clicking the link below will open the template. Alternatively you can have your mouse over the links, right click and choose save as to save the template to your computer.

Butterfly Life Cycle Craft Template

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Tagged With: butterfly life cycle craft, butterfly life cycle, life cycle craft, life cycle craft for kids, life cycle craft, life cycle, paper toy craft, paper toy craft for kids, spring, spring craft for kids

Comments

Jeanette Kimmitt says
May 8, 2017 at 10:48 pm

The butterfly life cycle paper toy is just clever!
Thank you for sharing.

EVC says
May 11, 2017 at 6:12 am

Thanks for sharing!
It's beautiful!

Liz says
May 13, 2017 at 4:29 am

This one looks so.beautiful!

Hanna says
May 14, 2017 at 9:31 am

This was a really cute and fun craft!

Anu siha says
May 17, 2017 at 11:17 am

I like pom pom craft.

Evelyn says
May 19, 2017 at 7:53 am

WOW! Looking at it, I could not figure out how to make it! I was glad for the video! Thank you!

Andreja says
May 19, 2017 at 2:54 pm

This one really is easy to make but super tricky to describe with words and photos yes :). Glad you found the video helpful 😉

Mariana Maldonado says
May 23, 2017 at 3:28 pm

Such a great idea. So creative. I was trying to get the template, but not able to. Any ideas what I may be doing wrong? Thanks

Mariana Maldonado says
May 23, 2017 at 3:34 pm

Never mind I got it. So excited to use it with my kids. Thank you so much!

watsamon says
June 2, 2017 at 6:13 am

Good!

Robin Chapman says
June 7, 2017 at 5:03 pm

I teach middle school academics in a center school.

Miming says
June 14, 2017 at 9:17 am

Wow

Krisszi says
June 27, 2017 at 10:24 pm

It's really cute and adorable! Thanks for sharing 😊

Pat says
August 30, 2017 at 1:20 am

I think this is cute and a great teaching tool. I am unable to download this template, like I have done on the other crafts. Is it no longer available? I wanted to do this with my granddaughter, she loves butterflies.

Pat says
August 30, 2017 at 1:25 am

I was able to print it after I wrote. Thank you so much for a very unique craft.

Sasipat says
August 30, 2017 at 9:24 am

Very clever.

Allison says
September 5, 2017 at 1:43 am

This is a great idea. I am not able to get the template though. Is it still available?

Allison says
September 5, 2017 at 1:44 am

Got it! Thanks.

Hope says
November 5, 2017 at 6:05 am

I'd love to use this, but for some reason the link for the template is not working. :/

Hope says
November 5, 2017 at 6:06 am

It worked after I commented as well. Thank You!

Wendy Gardner says
February 12, 2018 at 7:38 pm

Thank you so much for the flextangle. What a brilliant idea and so effective. The kids at church are going to love it x

Fiona says
February 24, 2018 at 5:59 am

This looks amazing, but I can't find the template download link 😢 am I having a 'tired' not very good look?
apologies in advance if I am.

Fiona says
February 24, 2018 at 6:02 am

Got it! Thank you! the mind boggles in the skill in art and engineering you have. thank you again!

Summer says
February 24, 2018 at 10:45 pm

Thank you!! Can't wait to use it with my students… pretty sure they'll be astonished by it🤗

Mama Owl says
November 16, 2018 at 3:15 pm

This is awesome! Any plans to make one for the frog life cycle?!?!?!?

Andreja says
November 18, 2018 at 1:43 pm

Yes! And a few more! Time is my enemy 😉

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