Derwent Nature Mobile

How this links with the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site:

Create a simple mobile taking inspiration from the landscape, flora and fauna of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, which has an abundance of wildflower meadows, pastures and ancient woodlands. The river Derwent and Cromford Canal support many water insects and other wildlife. Use the Flower & Insect resource sheets for ideas.

You will need:
- Flower & Insect sheet at end of this pdf
- Pipe cleaners
- Coloured Pencil
- Scissors
- Needle
- Wool & Embroidery cotton
- Plastic milk bottle
- Buttons or beads (2 per insect)
- Sturdy piece cardboard about 4cms x 8cms
- Cutting mat or chopping board
- Bradawl or knitting needle
How to make: Dragonfly

- 1 pipe cleaner
- 2 beads/buttons
- plastic milk container (middle section)
- scissors
- coloured pencil/pen
- bradawl or knitting needle

Step 1: Making Insect Wings

Using scissors cut the top and bottom off a plastic milk bottle and recycle. The middle section that is left is the piece you will make the wings from.

Step 2:

Use the Insect Resource sheet to see the shape of the different insects wings. Press the plastic section flat along one of the natural creases. Use a coloured pencil or pen. Draw the wings on one side of the doubled plastic as shown in photo1. Use the scissors to cut out the wings, being careful not to cut along the fold.

Step 3:

Hold the plastic wings together in two layers and poke the bradawl through both layers. Repeat this again further along from the first hole. Open out the wings to see the 4 holes (as in the second diagram).

Step 4: Making The Dragonfly Body

Fold 1 pipe cleaner in half to find the middle. And thread a bead on either side of the halfway point. Holding the 2 beads together twist them round once to secure.
**Step 5:**

Thread each end of the pipe cleaner through the holes as shown in the first photo. Twist the pipe cleaners one over the other repeatedly till they become one piece, as shown in photo 2.

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## How to make: Bumble bee

- 4 x pipe cleaners 2 yellow & 2 black
- 2 beads/buttons
- plastic milk container (middle section)
- scissors
- coloured pencil/pen
- bradawl

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### Step 1:

Follow Steps 1-3 in the Dragonfly instructions to make the wings. Look at the resource sheet to see the shape as they are smaller and only need 2 holes not 4 as in the Dragonfly. Use a black pipe cleaner cut in half and push through The holes as demonstrated in photo 2.

### Step 2:

Take 1 yellow and 1 black pipe cleaner hold them together at one end and wrap loosely around the pencil to form a roll. Remove the pencil carefully without squashing the shape of the pipe cleaner roll. This is the bee’s body.

### Step 3:

Take the wings and push the attached pipe cleaners through the body until the black ends of the pipe cleaner come out the other side. Cut a yellow pipe cleaner in half and push it all the way through the pipe cleaner body. Take the ends of the yellow pipe cleaner twist them together. Push them back into the body along with the black pipe cleaner ends from the wings. Now you have made the bee.
### How to make: Pipe cleaner flower

**You will need:**
- 2 x pipe cleaners
- Scissors
- Green embroidery cotton (15cms approx)
- Sewing needle

**Step 1:**
Take 1 pipe cleaner and fold it in half. Cross one end over the other about 4cms from the centre to form the first petal. Give it a twist to secure.
Repeat the same instructions again on either side of the first petal. You will now have 3 petals as shown in photo2.
Twist the 2 ends together either side of the 1st and 3rd petal to become a stalk.

**Step 3:**
Take the 2nd pipe cleaner and make the first petal as you did in step 1. Repeat the process on one side of the first petal. Give it a twist to secure. You should have 2 petals and a long stalk as in photo1. Put the 2 pipe cleaner/petals together and twist the stalks together until they become one flower.

**Step 3:**
Thread the green cotton onto the needle. Start on the underside of the flower, push the needle through the centre. Hold one end of the thread firmly against the flower stalk and push the needle through from back to front several times to make a centre for the flower. Finally bring thread to the back and wind round the stalk about 10 times before tying a small knot to finish off.
# How to make: Tassel flower

**You will need:**
- 1 green pipe cleaner
- Wool, about 50cms
- Scissors
- Green embroidery cotton (15cms approx)
- A sturdy piece of card about 4cms x 8cms

## Step 1:
Cut the green pipe cleaner in 4 equal pieces by folding it half and half again and cutting the creases.

## Step 2:
Wind the length of wool round and round the card as shown in photo 1. Hold the wool/card at the top to stop the wool unravelling and push one of the pipe cleaner pieces between the card and the wool as shown in photo 2 and twist the two ends together tightly to form the stalk.

## Step 4:
Push the scissors between the top of the card and wool and cut through the looped wool. Remove the card.
Thread a needle with the embroidery cotton. Hold one end against the stalk. Wind the thread round and round the stalk and base of flower. Fasten off with a couple of knots. Trim the top to tidy up the flower. Repeat the 4 steps to make the other 3 flowers.
## How to: Assemble the Mobile

### You will need:
- 1 stick/cane
- 1 tree cone
- Small ball of wool
- 4 x 50 cm lengths wool
- Scissors
- 1 sewing needle

### Step 1:
Tie the wool to one end of the cane. Wrap the length of wool around the cane until it is completely covered finishing with a couple of knots at the other end. Now attach one of the wool lengths to either end of the covered cane using double knots to secure.

### Step 2:
Thread the needle with one of the lengths of wool through an insect or a flower onto the end as shown. Tie a double knot to secure. Tie 2 or 3 insects/flowers to the wool. Repeat this for the other 2 lengths of wool.

### Step 3:
When you add the dragonflies make a hole in the tip of one wing with a bradawl and thread the wool through twice making a loop around the tip of the wing. This will secure the insect in place. You can adjust it by sliding the wool through the hole.
Step 4:

When you have the 3 lengths of wool threaded up with the insects you can attach them to the cane. One in the middle and one at either end to balance the mobile. Tie them with double knots to the cane.

Tips and suggestions

When using the bradawl or sharp pointed object to make holes in the plastic for the wings always put a cutting board or a chopping board under the plastic to push the bradawl into and protect your work surface.

The double knot illustrated below is a reference for where I have mentioned tying and attaching things to the wool ie. flowers and insects to hang on the mobile.

![Double Overhand Knot Instructions](image-url)
**Insect & Flower Resource Sheet for Nature Mobile**

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Please let us know what you think of this activity and share your work with us

When you have had a go at this activity, we’d love to hear what you think, or see your work. Please send us any feedback below by 12th October 2020.

Post us your work – If you would like to post us any of your work or let us know what you think of this activity with a note with your name and address (and age if you’d like to share that). We are hoping to have an exhibition in the Autumn on one of the mill sites of the work created by people all along the valley. We will return all your work to you after the exhibition.

Postal address:

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Derbyshire DE4 3AG

Send us a photo – Email a photo of your creation to info@derwentvalleymills.org

Social Media – If you use social media use #DVMWHSCreativity and post the images of your work and tag us at:

Facebook: @DerwentValleyMillsWHS
Twitter: @DVMillsWHS
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Hope you enjoy doing this craft activity!