

How to Make a Flutter Book

by Linda Bullock



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Imagine a book with pages that flutter like butterfly wings when you open it.

While that sounds magical, artists have been making books that do this for centuries. They are called flutter books. They were created in Japan. They are made by folding and gluing paper in a special way. When done, the pages unfold when the book is open, and they collapse like an accordion when it is closed.

You can make your own flutter book. You need two pieces of heavy paper, two pieces of cardboard, markers, white glue, scissors, and yarn.

Tape the pieces of heavy paper along a short edge to make a long strip. Fold the strip in half and then half again. Make sure the edges meet. Continue to fold until you have a desired page width.

Unfold the strip and look along one edge. Refold some of the pages, changing the direction of the fold, to make a series of “W” shapes. When you squeeze the folded pages together, they should fold up like a fan.

Trace one end of the strip onto the two pieces of cardboard. Cut out each piece and dab glue on the backs. Attach one cardboard piece to the front of your paper strip and one piece to the back of the strip.

Let the glue dry, and decorate your book cover. Then fill the blank pages with your words and pictures. When you are finished, tie a piece of yarn around your book to keep it closed. Enjoy your flutter book!