

The Ark presents

THE LAST



MOTH

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Activity Sheet

1st-6th class

The Ark, Temple Bar
Bookatark.ie | 016707788

The Last Moth Activity Sheet

The activities within this resource link to the exploring and creating, performing and presenting, and responding and connecting strands of the 2025 Arts Education Specification, particularly focusing on the drama (role and character, movement, place and space) and visual arts (shape, line, form) concepts.

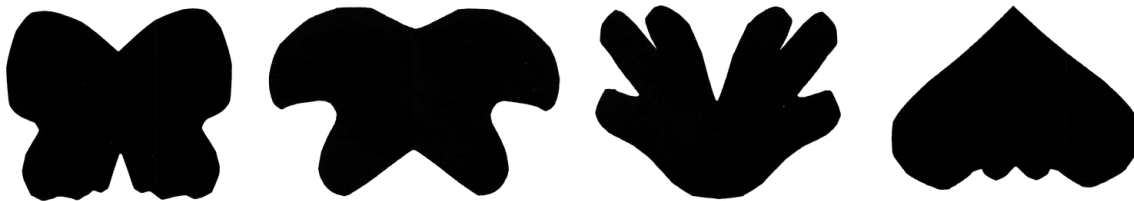


My name is Duffy Mooney-Sheppard and I am a visual artist who draws, makes things and creates theatre. I absolutely love moths. After seeing 'The Last Moth' theatre show at The Ark, I came up with these activities by playing around with materials in my art studio. I hope you will enjoy these activities as much as I did.

The activities in this can be taken individually but were prepared as a series where one activity builds on another - moving from research to artistic responses.

1. An Artist Research Notebook

You need: A4 card x 1 sheet, A4 paper various colours x approx 4-6 sheets, pencil, scissors, glue & ribbon/elastic band or string.



Moth wings come in many shapes, like these examples above. We will make a notebook based on moth wings. First, fold your card in half like a birthday card. Then, drawing from the folded side (not the open edge), draw the shape of a moth wing. Make it as big as you can - filling the page (Image 1 & 2). Cut this out. Now fold 2 pages of paper the same way and use your cut out card shape as a stencil to draw the wing shape again. Cut these out. You now have a cover and pages for inside your book (Image 3).



Image 1



Image 2



Image 3

To decorate we will cut each of the remaining colour paper pages into smaller pieces. To do this, fold each sheet like a birthday card, and then repeat, open up the sheet and the folds will be divided into 4 equal parts. Cut these out. Fold each of these little pieces in half and draw different shapes on them (Image 4).

Note: If you draw a shape connected to the folded edge (like when you made your wing cover), when you cut it out, you will get one symmetrical shape. If you cut a shape out of the middle of the page, not connected to an edge, you will get two symmetrical shapes - like the yellow circles in the photo below. Try both ways to get a variety of shapes and sizes (Image 5).



Image 4



Image 5

Open up your cover and place the shapes in different ways, to see how you would like the cover to look. To be like a moth, it's important to be symmetrical, i.e. both wings are a mirror image of each other. Then glue down the pattern you like best. Put the paper pages inside.

Using a ribbon, string or elastic bands, secure the book together (Image 6).



Image 6



Image 7

Research Time

In your artist research book collect information, stick in pictures and make drawings about moths. This is your place to investigate, ask questions, find answers and dream up ideas. You can decide when to write or draw or what you would like to find out about moths.

Some information to get you started... What separates a moth from a butterfly? The majority of moths are night fliers, in fact a word for moth in other languages such as in Irish 'Féileacán Oíche', Swedish 'Nattfjäril' and German 'Nachtfalter' translate directly as 'Night Butterfly'. Unlike butterflies, moths have stunning tufted antennae of all kinds of shapes and sizes. Butterflies and moths both undergo a fascinating transformation from caterpillar to winged insect. Although, unlike a butterfly caterpillar whose skin forms a hard shiny shell we call a chrysalis, moth caterpillars spin a web like cocoon from silken threads or create one from dry leaf litter. There are over 1,500 types of moth in Ireland. Their caterpillar and winged moth forms and their cocoon types are beautiful and surprisingly diverse.

A great website resources to use for some visual reference for these activities is the Image Archive at: www.mothsireland.com

Here are some suggestions and questions for your research, draw and/or write your answers into your notebook:

1. Can you draw some different irish moths? Pay attention to the shape and patterns of their wings, look at their heads and different shaped antennae. Some moths are very furry, they may be quite colourful and some have really detailed patterns.
2. How does a moth smell, taste and hear the world? 3. What do moths cocoons look like and how are they made? What happens inside them? 4. What is the link between moths and the moon?

2 . Becoming a Moth You need: Card, left over shapes from last activity, pipe cleaners, wool/embroidery thread, glue/sellotape/stapler



Image 1

You will need a long narrow piece of card as your base. To make mine, I cut two pieces from an A4 sheet of card and glued/sellotaper/staple them together (Image 1). Then checked the size I needed for my head and attached it together with glue/sellotape/staple.

Decorate it with leftover shapes from the last activity or make new shapes. Remember, symmetry is key when thinking of moth patterns.

Twist the bottom of two pipe cleaners together. Cut wool / embroidery thread or similar into short strands, approx 15cm (Image 2). Tie each one onto the end of each pipe cleaner (Image 3). Sellotape this into the cardboard band. You can play around with the shape of the antennae - more tall, more curved or swirly. See what you like. Have a look and see if there are any other materials you could add that are moth-like. For example feathers or something soft like cotton wool or fake fur (Image 3).

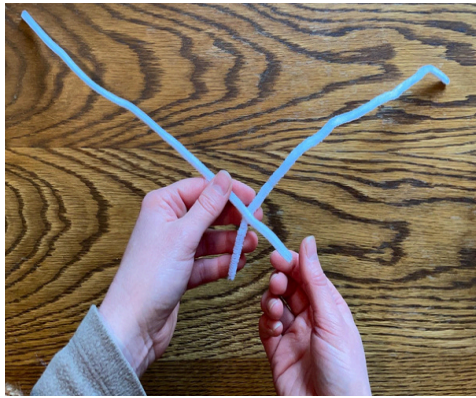


Image 2



Image 3



Image 4

You now have unique antennae but you may also like wings for the next activity. If you have time, use the same method as making your notebook cover in part one, just scale up the card, i.e. use a large A3 or A2 piece of card. Fold in half, cut out and decorate. Tie the wings on with ribbon, elastic or string. Alternatively, a quicker way is to find a piece of fabric, a sheet or towel, and wear it like a cape.

3. The Moth Dance You need: Antenna from last activity, wings, a torch, optional: a large bed sheet, a speaker for music

Put your antennae and wings on. Turn the lights down low or off, put on some music. Ask someone to shine a torch or lamp behind you.

Suggested music: Claude Debussy, Clare de Lune. Listen and move to the music.

The dance: Start as a slowly wriggling cocoon, arms tightly wrapped around you. Then slowly emerging from the cocoon, Discover your wings and take flight. Enjoy flying dancing across the space and watch your shadow fly.



4. My Moth Portrait



Look at some of the paintings of Remedios Varo. I suggest these ones: Papilla Estelar, Tailleur pour dames, El otro reloj, Personaje. She paints surreal characters that are almost moth-like. First draw a sketch of one or more of these paintings' characters into your notebook.

Now draw and/or paint a portrait of yourself as a moth person, you might like to include the moon!

