



# Create Monarchs for Day of the Dead!!!

Variation #2 with plastic plates



Here you will find the easy step by step process of making monarch butterflies using orange plastic plates. This project is very simple, and will be a great addition to our collection at the Old Episcopal Burying Ground.

You will need:

- orange plastic plates. These should be pretty easy to find as Halloween approaches, paper plates may be used, but may not be as durable.
- black permanent markers
- scissors
- pipe cleaners, any colors are fine (at least two per students)
- stapler
- wooden popsicle sticks, or preferably the larger wooden tongue depressor sticks
- white acrylic paint, or white out

1. Draw a straight line down the middle of the plate and draw curved edges to form the wings. Just below the middle of the plate draw a diamond shape this creates the larger upper wing and smaller bottom wing of the monarch. If desired a few sets of the monarch wings may be cut out in advance, for the students to use as templates as shown in first photo below.

2. Cut the plate in half, then cut out the rest of the form.

3. Place the wings with the curved part of the plate overlapping. Staple the wings together, forming the shape of a butterfly.



4. Grab a pipe cleaner, and fold it in half. Now, staple it to the underside of the plate - this will be how we attach the butterflies to the fence. If desired two more pipe cleaners may be added to give the butterfly a full set of legs.



5. Time to decorate! Sharpie or acrylic paint can be used on the surface. Challenge the students to create the patterns of the monarch wings by showing them some photographs of real monarchs! White and/or yellow accents may be added to complete the pattern.

\*Sharpie is cleaner to apply, but the acrylic paint is easier.



6. Add a popsicle stick to the center of the monarch to create the body and a pipe cleaner for the antennae. Both can be applied with a hot glue gun. The body can also be added earlier and painted along with the rest of the butterfly.



7. Write your name or initials with sharpie to help you identify your butterfly!

Congratulations! You are now the proud owner of a beautiful monarch butterfly to display at Lexington's Old Episcopal Burial Ground! Thank you so much for participating in our project, and we cannot wait to see your class' wonderful art.

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