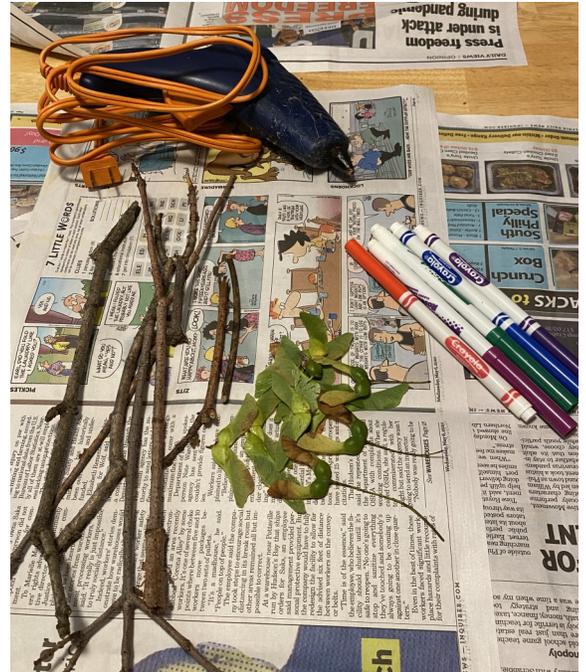


Dragonfly and Flower Samara Craft

As Fall approaches, you will start to notice more and more seeds falling to the ground. One seed in particular that you may find all over the parks or even in your backyard is the Maple Tree seed—also called samaras. These seeds are shaped so that when they fall, they can fly in the wind like a helicopter propeller to land far away from the parent tree and have its best shot at sprouting into a tree itself. Since many of these seeds will not reach the point of germination, why not utilize them to create fun crafts! This guide will show you how to make dragonflies and flowers out of samaras and twigs!

Supplies Needed:

- Maple Seeds (Samaras)
- Twigs
- Paint/Markers/Glitter glue
- Hot glue gun or Craft/Wood glue
- Round object (small pebble or a different seed pod like an acorn)



Dragonfly Craft

Step One: Lay out your samaras on newspaper and get creative! Color or paint your samaras however you want. These will become your dragonflies' wings. You may also color the twig, as this will be the dragonflies' body. You will want to decorate at least 4 samaras. (I used markers, but after some experimenting, paint may be the best way to go for the colors to stand out.)

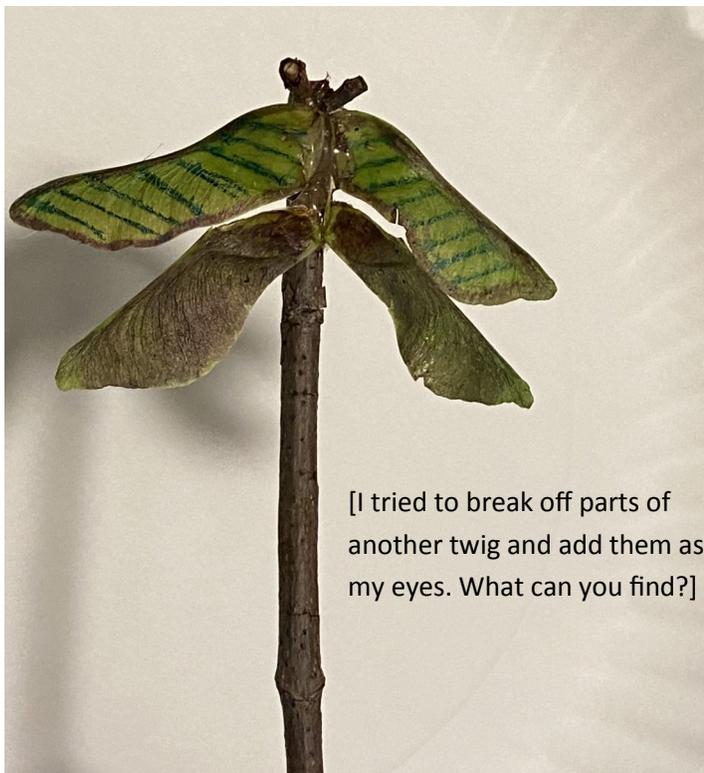




Step Two: Choose 2 samaras to pair together as the forewings for the dragonfly, and 2 for the hindwings. Use a small dot of hot glue or craft glue on the twig, and place your first pair at the top of the twig onto the glue.

Once you have glued down the forewings, add your hindwings (or your second samara pair.) Place another small dot of glue onto the twig, and press down on the samaras.

Step Three: If you want to take it a step further with creativity, try to add legs and eyes! Dragonflies have huge eyes, so find small round objects that could represent them! Use your imagination to see what other creatures you can make!



[I tried to break off parts of another twig and add them as my eyes. What can you find?]



Flower Craft

Just like the dragonfly craft, start out by making the samaras you have gathered nice and colorful! You will need a handful of samaras for the flower design, so make sure you pick up quite a few from the ground.

Step One: Glue down a small round object to the top of a twig. (I used a small pebble that I found.)

Step Two: Once you have colored/painted your samaras, start gluing them around your round object. You can arrange them in a pinwheel pattern, or pair them up side by side to make different styles of flowers.

Add extra samaras or a leaf to the bottom of the twig to make leaflets!



Viola! Samaras and twigs have now turned into dragonflies and flowers. You can then use these crafts to decorate and stick into house plant pots, make a “bouquet” of flowers, or even tie a piece of fishing line to the dragonflies and hang them to make the illusion that they are flying!

Now it's your turn to get creative!