

Make a Flying Dragon



WHAT YOU'LL NEED

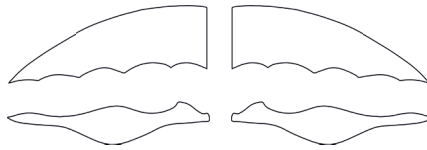
- Plain card (non-shiny)
- Coloured tissue paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Needle and white thread
- Coloured pencils, crayons or paints

Friday 29th September is Michaelmas day, a time when Christians recall legends of St Michael, who was said to have slain a dragon. On 15th October there is a solar eclipse that will be seen by many people in the western hemisphere. In our 'Sun' issue, we included a story called 'The Dragon Who Ate the Sun', inspired by a Chinese solar eclipse myth.

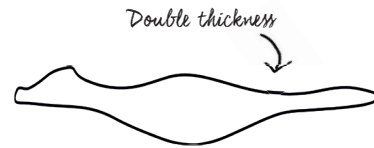
This autumn, why not try making a flying dragon? You can find instructions on the next two pages, and templates on the third page.

We've even included a mini version of the story on the next page!

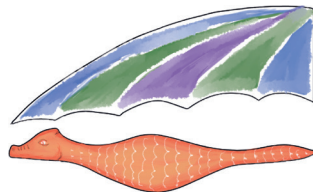
- ① Cut out the template pieces.
Use the template pieces to cut out from your card:
2 x wing
2 x body



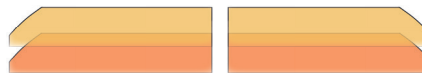
- ② Stick together the two body pieces. This reinforces the body and makes it heavier than the wings.



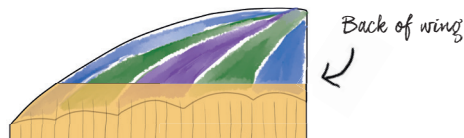
- ④ Decorate both sides of the body and wings. We used white wax crayon to make scales and draw on the eyes, and then painted over the top of the crayon.



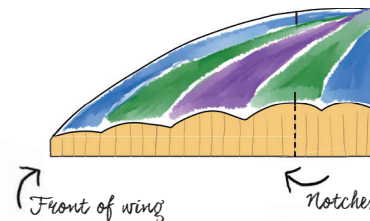
- ⑤ Place tassel template on a double sheet of tissue and cut. Make two tassels. You can layer up sheets of two different colours for a more colourful effect.



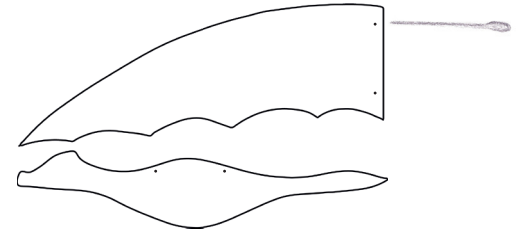
- ⑥ Cut lots of little strips about two thirds of the way up the tassel. Stick tassels onto the back of the wings.



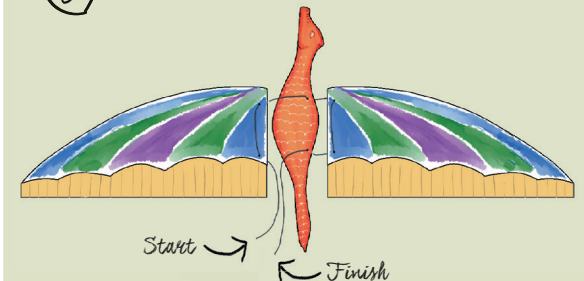
- ⑦ Once the tassels are in place, cut small notches into the wings and tissue, (shown on template).



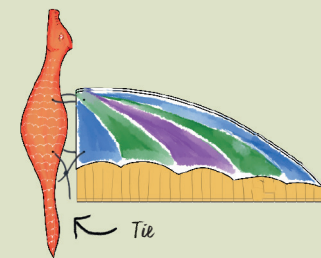
- ③ Use a needle to make holes where the black dots are on your pieces. You might need some adult help!



- ⑧ To thread your dragon together...



Push needle and thread through first hole behind wing, then follow the direction of the thread, as shown.

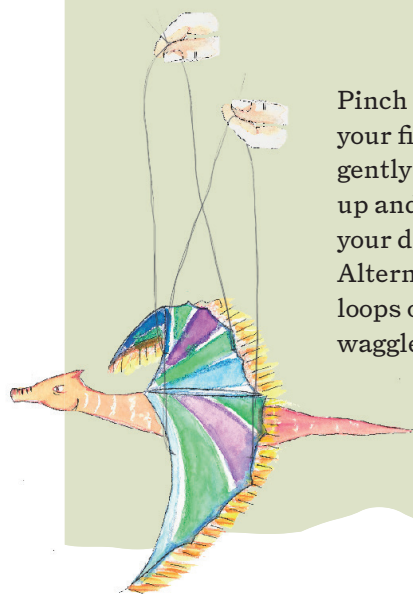
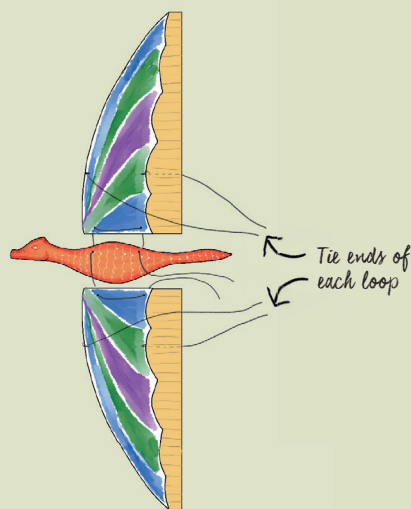


Bring wings together to tie thread, leaving a small space between body and wings.

9 To make your dragon fly ...

Cut two lengths of thread, as long as your arm.

Loop one length of thread. Place the loop over the wing notches, and tie the ends. Repeat with second loop.



Pinch the loops in your fingers and gently bounce fingers up and down to make your dragon fly! Alternatively, place loops over a stick, and waggle!

The Dragon Who Ate the Sun...

Once upon a time when the sky burned bright and dragons still lived in the skies, there lived a girl named Jia. Jia lived in a village at the foot of a high mountain in the land of China. She lived a busy life, but when she wasn't working, her gaze would star upwards to the sky. Jia had a secret hope... to one day see a real dragon!

When Jia told her mother her secret wish, her mother said, 'Hush daughter! Dragons have the most sensitive ears!'

In the year Jia turned seven, a dragon flew across the sky. His wings were wide and his bright eyes searched for something to eat. As he flew he spied the golden orb of the sun, sitting on its blue throne. 'Well,' thought the dragon. 'If I had the heat of the sun in my belly, my scales would glow and my fire would be the most powerful of all.' So saying, he flew up to the sun and, bite by bite, he began to eat it.'

The sunlight began to dim. Jia looked up, but there was not a cloud in the sky. And with each passing moment, the sun began to darken. One by one, the birds stopped singing, the frogs stopped croaking and even the cicadas, thinking it was night, began to chirp.

It was too bright for Jia to look directly at the sun, but, making a small gap in her fingers, she saw the coiled shape of a dragon, its mouth wide around the sun. Jia ran as fast as her legs would carry her, to tell the wise woman of the village what she has seen.

'Quickly then,' said the woman. 'If it is indeed a dragon then we must make as great a noise as we can!' And so every person, young or old, began making the loudest noises they could. they hit their cooking pots, they stamped their feet and they shouted.

Up in the sky, just as the dragon was about to swallow the sun whole, he stopped. The terrible noise from below crashed against his sensitive ears and gave him a frightful headache. The clatter grew louder and louder until he could no longer bear it. He gradually spat out the sun until it hung once again, whole and round in the sky.

And Jia looked through her fingers at the sun, and saw a huge dragon, flying away into the East.



