Tawny Owl kite...

template and instructions

Follow the instructions below to make your kite.

You will need: printed kite instructions and template, tyvek material (available to buy on the internet), carbon paper, markers or paint, scissors, cane or thin stick, ribbon, long length of string and super glue.

HOW TO MAKE THE KITE:

1. Arrange the printed A4 sheets for the template as opposite and tape together to make one large template.

2. Place the A4 carbon paper between the template and the tyvek material and draw over the template, moving the carbon paper around as you trace each sheet.

3. Colour and decorate the kite while flat with paint or marker pens and allow to dry.

4. Cut out the main shape of the kite. Fold the kite shape back at the centre line. Fold the wings forward on the dashed lines, making sure each half meets exactly. The folds create a keel.

5. Glue a short length of cane inside the keel along the centre line. Glue the keel together around the cane.

6. Place a stick across the wings centrally along the wing tabs, leaving about 20mm at each end. Fold and glue down the tabs over the stick to keep it in place.

7. To create a tail, make a small slit at the bottom of the keel, cut five long strips of tyvek, or lengths of ribbon, thread through the slit till half way through and then double over, to form two trailing lengths. Add a blob of glue to secure.

8. Punch holes where indicated. Thread string through both holes on the wings, and tie a loose loop around the wings, tying a knot at the front (it should be around 30cm from the owl when pulled tight). Now thread another piece of string through the bottom hole and tie around the keel, the other end will join the knot in the piece of string above. Now add the length of string, which should be attached centrally to the knot, (this should form a triangular shape when pulled tight, and will keep the kite stable when it flies). A winder can be attached to the other end of the string and may be useful for longer lines.

9. Now take the kite outside and fly it. Remember you’ll need a windy day - Enjoy!!