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# Build a Moth Hotel!



## About moths...

### What is the difference between a moth and a butterfly?

Moths and butterflies are both scaly-winged insects. There are over 2,500 species of moth in the UK, but only 59 species of butterfly! Moths can be just as brightly coloured as butterflies, and many species of moth are awake during the day too.



The main way to tell a moth from a butterfly is that the antennae (sensors on the front of the head) of most butterflies are thin and have club ends, whereas moth antennae are often thicker or feathery.

### Why do we need moths?



Just like butterflies, many moths feed on nectar in flowers and are important pollinators. Moth caterpillars are also food for many other animals.

### What is a moth hotel?

In this activity, you will be able to see how many moths live near you, by building a moth hotel! You will use light to attract moths to your hotel, so you can identify them, and then let them go in a safe place. You will need **adult help!**

We'd love to see photos of  
the moths near you!!  
Share with us at  
[@morethanadodo](#)



## You will need

- **Adult help!**
- A 2-litre plastic bottle
- String or wool
- Sticky tape
- Crayons
- Scissors (**adult step**)
- Half an egg carton / scrap card
- A print of the flower shape on page 3
- An outdoor light / a torch



# What to do

1.



2.



3.



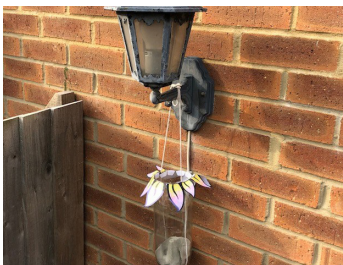
4.



5.



6.



**Remember to release anything you catch in a safe place straight away.**

1. **Ask an adult** to cut the top off of the 2 litre plastic bottle - the top part should be shorter than the bottom part. **Ask an adult** to also cut the screw cap off the very top of the bottle, leaving a gap around 4-5 cm wide. **Be careful of sharp edges!**
2. **Ask an adult** to cut the egg carton half to a round shape, that you can place inside the bottom of your 2 litre bottle. This is where the moths will sit in your moth hotel. You can also use scrunched up scrap card instead of an egg carton.
3. Follow the instructions on the 'flower shape' page to cut out, colour in and attach your Flower Shape to the top half of your bottle. You will need **adult help** for the cutting steps.
4. Place the top part of the bottle upside down in the bottom part of the bottle.

Secure your two bottle parts using sticky tape so they don't come apart!
5. Loop a piece of string around the bottom of your bottle, and tie it at the top; the loop should have enough room to hang over a light or hook. Use sticky tape to secure the string in place.
6. Your moth hotel is ready to hang outside! Make sure there is **no wind or rain!** Hang your moth hotel beneath a light, or use a torch to shine onto the flower shape. The light will attract moths!
7. Leave your moth hotel for a few hours, or overnight. **Remember to check your moth hotel after a few hours or first thing the next day!**

8. ID your moths, and then **release them in a safe place**. A brilliant Moth ID Guide has been created by Butterfly Conservation - you can view it here: <https://butterfly-conservation.org/moths/identify-a-moth>



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# Flower shape

2. Colour in your flower shape. Pale colours will attract more moths!



1. Cut around the edge of your flower shape with **adult help**.

4. Fold the tabs down, away from the coloured side.

3. Cut out this middle section of your flower shape with **adult help**.

Cut around the tabs carefully - make sure you don't cut them off!

5. Slide your flower shape onto the top half of your 2 litre bottle. The top of the bottle should be facing down, and the tabs should be hidden.

6. Use the tabs to position the flower shape, and secure it using sticky tape. Your bottle top is now ready to be used in your moth hotel!

