

Courageous Crow



Crows are large, strong, inquisitive, and adaptable birds. They are as much at home in urban settings as on farms. Flocks of crows, often comical in their noisy behavior, are a common sight in early fall. But farmers don't think crows are funny—they use scarecrows to keep the pesky birds away from crops. Although this realistic crow can flap its wings, it is quite unflappable!

Materials

For each child:

- ✿ crow patterns (page 4)
- ✿ 12- by 18-inch black construction paper
- ✿ 9-inch square of black construction paper
- ✿ 2 hole reinforcements
- ✿ 5-inch square of yellow or orange construction paper
- ✿ two 9- by 12-inch sheets of black construction paper

Other materials:

- ✿ scissors
- ✿ clear tape
- ✿ stapler
- ✿ glue stick

Tip

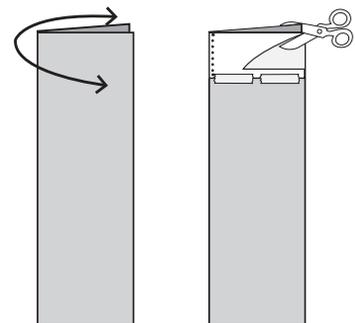
If desired, work with small groups to help children make their crows. Or challenge several children to work together to make one crow.

What to Do

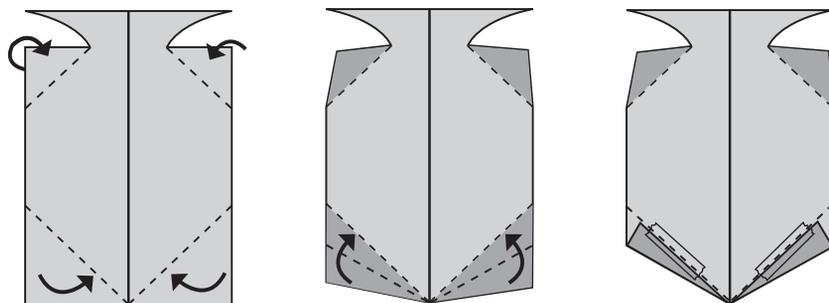
Make a copy of the patterns for each child. Pass out the materials. Have children cut out the pattern boxes. Then demonstrate the following steps.

Body and Tail

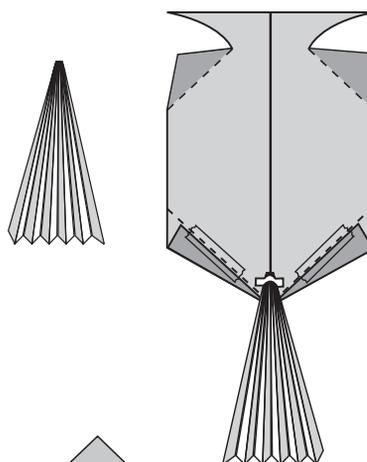
- 1 Fold the 12- by 18-inch paper in half the long way. Tape the head pattern to the paper, as shown. Cut out the gray shape and discard it. Carefully remove the pattern and tape.



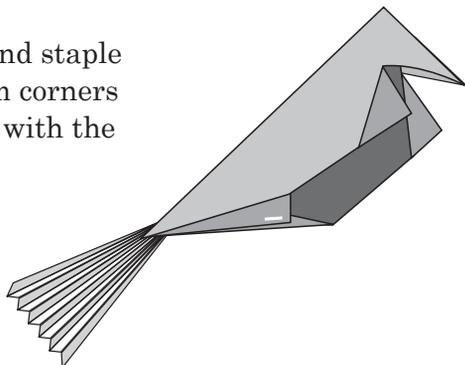
2 Open the paper and fold in the corners, as shown. Unfold the two bottom corners and fold each one in half again. Tape the bottom corners in place.



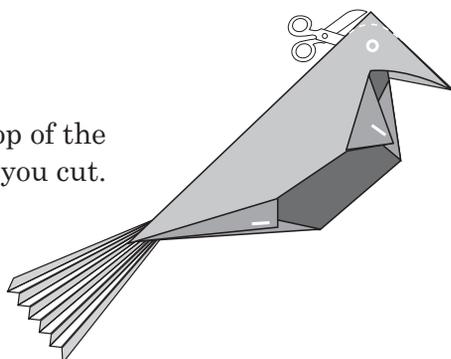
3 Accordion-fold the 9-inch square of black paper. Staple one end of the folded paper. Tape the tail to the body, as shown.



4 Overlap and staple the bottom corners together. Repeat with the top corners.



5 Cut away the point at the top of the head, rounding the head as you cut. Add hole reinforcements for eyes.



Write About It!

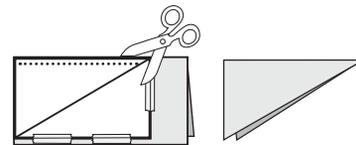
A look at the actions and behaviors of crows presents a great opportunity for children to develop an understanding of point of view. After sharing one or both books below, invite children to imagine they are crows. Have them write a paragraph about their crow-related experiences, telling their story from the crow's perspective.

Nonfiction Literature Link

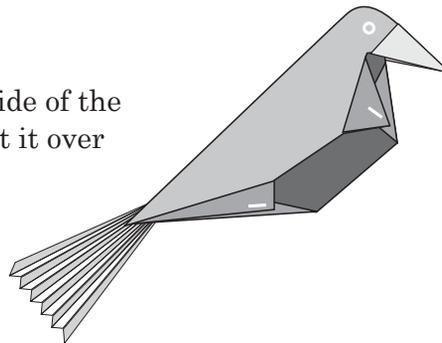
Crows! Strange and Wonderful
by Laurence Pringle
(Boyd's Mills Press, 2002).
This illustrated book explores a crow's day-to-day actions and behaviors.

Beak

6 Fold the 5-inch square of yellow or orange paper in half. Tape the beak pattern along the fold, as shown. Cut out the triangle.

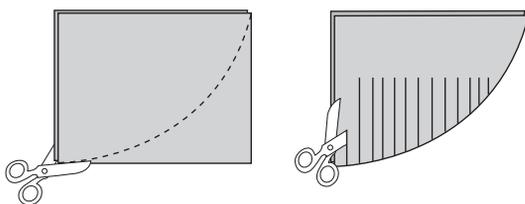


7 Apply glue to the inside of the folded triangle and fit it over the crow's beak.

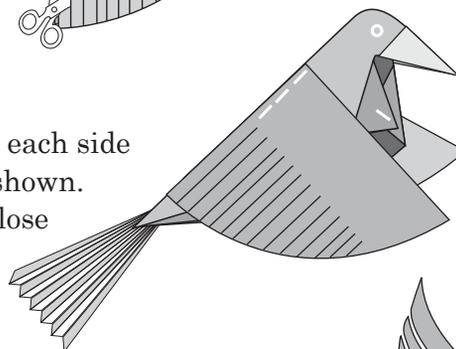


Wings

8 Stack together the two sheets of 9- by 12-inch black paper. Cut out large wings through both layers, as shown. Then cut fringes along the curved sides, leaving about 4 inches at the top of the wings.

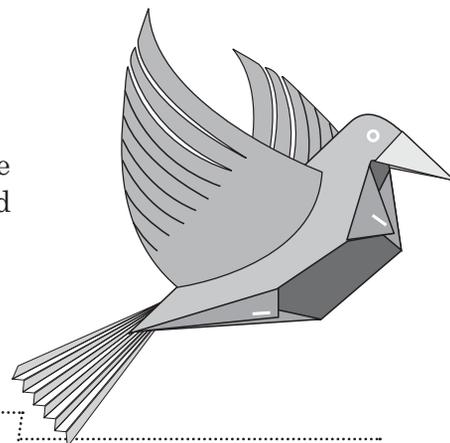


9 Place a wing on each side of the body, as shown. Staple them in place close to the ridge of the crow's back.



10 To make the wings flap, hold the crow near the base of its tail and move it up and down rapidly.

Fly, crow, fly!



Tip

To keep the wings in a raised position, paper-clip them together above the crow's body.

How to Display

Perch the crows on a bookshelf, windowsill, or even the back of a chair. Or use string to suspend them from the ceiling.

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